

Hafa Adai!

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Villagomez creating Ethics Committee to probe sex allegations vs Propst. **PAGE 5**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2021

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With 25 new positives, CNMI total now at 812

» **374 active cases, 6 hospitalized**

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 25 more individuals were identified and confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 812.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday that the new cases were found through surveillance testing conducted on Nov. 28, and have since been isolated and are being monitored.

CHCC also reported that

there are 374 active cases of COVID-19 right now and six active hospitalizations. Of the

six, five are unvaccinated, one is vaccinated, and no one is on a ventilator.

Of the 25 new cases, three were found through community transmission. See 25 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:57pm, Nov. 30, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **86.4%**

Days since last community transmission **1**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	34,171
Fully Vaccinated:	30,855
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,961
Fully Vaccinated:	4,775
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	998

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,179	20	19,199
Recovered	17,265	36	17,301
Active	1,615	20	1,635
Deaths	263	0	263

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	787	25	812
Traced via Travel Screening	267	0	267
Traced via Community Screening	520	25	545
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

Auction of IPI assets moved to Dec. 31

By KIMBERLY E. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has postponed the auction of some of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's equipment in the lawsuit of USA Fanter Corp. Ltd., after IPI's coun-

sel verbally asked the court to reconsider the appointed limited receiver.

During a hearing last Monday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona briefly addressed IPI's motion to stay the sale of their assets. See AUCTION on Page 4

WHO warns new virus variant 'very high' risk

By JAMEY KEATEN, RAF CASERT and MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization warned

Monday that the global risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on the early evidence, saying the mutated coronavirus could lead to. See WHO on Page 4

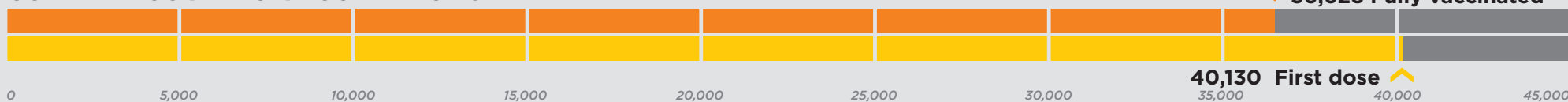


CHRISTMAS IN THE TROPICS

Despite the gloomy weather lately, the Christmas spirit is in full swing at the CNMI Office of the Governor. Picture shows one of the many Christmas-themed displays adorned with lights that will be lit up and on display at the office's parking lot from Nov. 29 to Jan. 2 next year.

JOSHUA SANTOS

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan: Toward the next 40 years of quality hotel service in the CNMI.

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ASIA

A court in Myanmar postponed its verdict in the trial of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

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LIFE & STYLE

Lindsay Lohan has told her followers on Instagram that she's engaged to Bader Shammas.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

JGO decides not to summon first lady's bodyguard

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee has

decided not to summon Jha-neeka Atalig, who is a police officer assigned as a personal

security detail with first lady Diann Tudela Torres.

Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* Monday

that the witnesses that have already testified before the JGO, notwithstanding Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' "attempts to impede the JGO investigation, have provided ample evidence on the issues" that they have explored with Atalig.

Therefore, she said, the JGO Committee has collectively decided to dismiss Atalig from the subpoena served upon her on Aug. 24, 2021.

The chair said Anthony Aguon, the government-paid lawyer for Atalig, has acknowledged their notice about dismissing her from the subpoena.

Atalig was scheduled to testify yesterday before the JGO Committee, which is investigating the governor's expenditures of

public funds and travel.

With the dismissal of Atalig, the committee also decided to cancel her hearing.

Babauta said this allows them to focus on the remainder of the witnesses that will be called to testify in the near future.

"The committee will be finalizing the dates for the remaining testimony. We thank the public for their patience," Babauta said.

Police Sgt. Joey R. Cruz, who is the chief of security for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, was served with a subpoena and testified last Nov. 23.

Police Sgt. Flora Aguon, who was formerly assigned as protective security detail for first lady Diann T. Torres, testified last Nov. 18.

Police Officer Jomalyn S. Gelacio, who was formerly assigned as protective security detail for first lady Diann Torres, was the first witness commanded to testify, through a subpoena, during the start of the JGO hearing/investigation last July 1.



Babauta



Atalig

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CUC's FAC remains the same in December

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at \$0.23296 per kWh for the month of December.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from November 2021 to December 2021 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the

CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or ex-

ceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. **(PR)**

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Man who died in quarantine was not COVID-19 positive

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety reports that the man who was found dead at a quarantine site had tested negative for COVID-19 and was scheduled to be released on the day he was found dead.

According to DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, the 22-year-old male found dead in his room at the former Mariana Resort and Spa quarantine facility in Marpi was scheduled to be released last Monday, the same day when he was found lifeless.

DPS confirmed yesterday

that the man's death was self-inflicted.

Further investigation revealed that the victim was an unvaccinated individual from the island of Guam who arrived on Nov. 23 and was therefore held in quarantine pending his test results.

"The victim tested negative

and was scheduled to be released on the day he was found in his room. It was revealed that the manner of death was suicide," Pangelinan said.

According to police reports, DPS responded to a report of an unresponsive male individual at Mariana Resort at around 2:08pm last Monday.

Members of the COVID-19 Task Force performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the individual until help arrived. The victim was then transported to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. where he

was pronounced dead by an attending physician.

Although the man's next of kin have already been notified, DPS will continue to withhold the victim's information at the request of the family.

25

From Page 1

munity-based testing and 22 through contact tracing. By vaccination status, of the 25, six were fully vaccinated, eight were unvaccinated, six were partially vaccinated, and five were ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Since Oct. 28, there have been 521 new cases. Of the 521, 240 were found through contact tracing, 269 through community-based testing, and 12 through travel testing.

As for its vaccination updates, CHCC reported that 519 COVID-19 shots were administered on Nov. 29, bringing the CNMI's vaccination rate to 85.9%. Getting vaccinated, and the CNMI's high vaccination rate "affords the community more protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death," said CHCC.

For testing efforts, a total of 350 tests were conducted on Nov. 28 comprising surveillance and travel testing.

Registering for communi-

ty-based testing can be done at covidtesting.chcc.health. There is no code needed to register, and if no dates are showing then all slots have been filled. More dates will be announced, said CHCC in its news release.

CHCC said its Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already reached out to those who were in closest contact with the new cases, and added that "this effort will continue until all probable cases are identified and tested."

If you have concerns regarding possible exposure to a case, CHCC asks you to call its contact tracers no later than 9pm at (670) 285-1942, (670) 286-1710, or (670) 286-1729.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, and new loss of taste or smell, CHCC asks you to see your health care provider or call the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at 670-233-2067.

AUCTION

From Page 1

while they have an appeal pending with the U.S. Court of Appeals.

After hearing the arguments of both parties to IPI's motion to stay judgment pending appeal and motion for relief, Manglona granted a temporary stay on the Nov. 30 auction—the first of six—for two weeks.

Manglona said she will issue an order modifying the limited receivership and to reflect the postponement of the sale of IPI's property to Dec. 31.

The judge gave the parties up to Dec. 8 to work out a stipulation and details regarding security interest.

During last Monday's hearing, Kevin T. Abikoff, counsel to IPI, asked the court again to reconsider its appointment of the limited receiver in the case and vacate that order. The limited receiver appointed in this case is Clear Management Ltd, a company headed by Silver Heritage Group co-founder Tim Shepherd.

Abikoff argued that IPI is prepared to place the full judgment amount of \$2,089,345.28, in a restricted account designated by USA Fanter, or the court, fully securing USA Fanter for the duration of IPI's appeal of the judgment in this case to the Ninth Circuit Court

of Appeals.

Back in May 4, Manglona issued an order directing entry of an amended final judgment on the mechanic's lien. IPI filed an appeal on the order while USA Fanter went on to apply for a writ of execution on the judgment, and filed a motion for limited appointment of receiver in aid of execution that the court granted in October.

Abikoff informed the court that IPI has funds available to satisfy USA Fanter's judgment and is willing to secure those funds in a restricted bank account.

"The cash fund created by IPI, under this court's direction, will better secure USA Fanter—providing more cash than would be realized through the sale of the property subject to the receivership and will also better serve the interests of IPI and its creditors by ensuring that IPI's assets are not sold in the midst of economic conditions. Sale of the gaming equipment at this time would generate significantly less revenue to satisfy USA Fanter's judgment than IPI's proposal to place \$2,089,345.28 in a court-designated account," he said.

The plaintiff, USA Fanter Corp. Ltd., sued IPI for failing to pay the full contract amount due for labor and materials it provided for the improvement of IPI's real property in Garapan.

IN RESPONSE TO FORMER SPEAKER DELEON GUERRERO'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR,

'He was uninvited, was cursing, and had an outburst'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Democratic Party chairwoman Nola K. Hix said yesterday that former House speaker Pedro "Paduna" R. Deleon Guerrero appeared uninvited in the middle of the party's Central Executive Committee's informal meeting, and that he was cursing, was disruptive, and had an outburst.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about Deleon Guerrero's letter to the editor where he outlined his grievances against Hix, the NMI Democratic Party chairwoman said all the attendees at the meeting, which was held last Oct. 24, witnessed Deleon Guerrero's cursing and outburst.

Hix said the former speaker is not a CEC member and that, contrary to his claims, his brother, former senator Herman R. Deleon Guerrero, never contacted the CEC to request his presence as a proxy.

Even if Herman Deleon Guerrero had done so, Hix said there is no provision for attendance by proxy in their bylaws.



Hix

"Indeed, this meeting did not involve any matter put to vote, so a proxy would not be needed even if it were permitted," Hix said.

In his letter to the editor that *Saipan Tribune* published Tuesday, Pedro Deleon Guerrero expressed disappointment with the Party's leadership

and accused Hix and vice chairman Daniel Quitugua of being "bad leaders" after they evicted him from the Oct. 24 meeting. Deleon Guerrero said he received unwelcoming and disrespectful

treatment by both Hix and Quitugua, who told him to "get out." He said walked out and left peacefully, causing no commotion or disruption.

Hix said attempts to derail their efforts as Democrats only serve to remind them of the type of toxic and unbecoming behavior that has plagued the Party and politics for years.

"It was the party's demise and is no longer acceptable. Politics is supposed to be about people binding together in the pursuit of the common good," she said.

The chair said politics is degraded when it simply becomes a game of shifting al-

liances to preserve personal prestige and influence or to advance narrow economic self-interest.

She said that last Oct. 21, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who are running as governor and lieutenant governor as independent candidates in next year's elections, had requested to meet with the party's CEC members to discuss how to achieve similar goals with the upcoming general election.

Hix said the letter was shared with CEC members and their elected leaders with the agreement that there would be no commitments.

She said the meeting would be to simply listen and ask questions, and was confirmed and scheduled for Oct. 24.

She said it was not a public meeting, nor was it published as the request an informal meeting with CEC members only.

Hix said Deleon Guerrero appeared in the middle of the meeting in spite of the fact that he is not a CEC member.

The chair said Deleon Guerrero's disruption was followed by the kind request for him to "please excuse himself" and "this is a closed-door meeting."

"With this kind of request

cluding the U.S. and members of the European Union, have moved to prohibit travelers arriving from southern Africa.

WHO said there are "considerable uncertainties" about the omicron variant. But it said preliminary evidence raises the possibility that the variant has mutations that could help it both evade an immune-system response and boost its ability to spread from one person to another.

"Depending on these characteristics, there could be future surges of COVID-19, which could have severe consequences, depending on a number of factors, including where surges may take place," it added. "The overall global risk ... is assessed as very high."

The WHO stressed that while scientists are hunting evidence to better understand this variant, countries should accelerate vaccinations as quickly as possible.

While no deaths linked to omicron have been reported so far, little is known for certain about the variant, including whether it is more contagious, more likely to cause serious illness or more able to evade vaccines. Last week, a WHO advisory panel said it might be more likely to re-infect people who have already had a bout with COVID-19.

Scientists have long warned that the virus will keep finding new ways to exploit weaknesses in the world's vaccination drive, and its discovery in Africa occurred in a continent where under 7% of the population is vaccinated.

"The emergence of the omicron variant has fulfilled, in a precise way, the predictions of the scientists who warned that the elevated transmission of the virus in areas with limited access to vaccine would speed its evolution," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, head of CEPI,

one of the founders of the U.N.-backed global vaccine sharing initiative COVAX.

Spain on Monday became one of the latest countries to report its first confirmed omicron case, detected in a traveler who returned Sunday from South Africa after making a stopover in Amsterdam.

While the majority of omicron infections recorded around the world have been in travelers arriving from abroad, cases in Portugal and Scotland have raised fears that the variant may already be spreading locally.

"Many of us might think we are done with COVID-19. It's not done with us," warned Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO's director-general.

Days after the variant sent a shudder through the financial world nearly two years into the pandemic that has killed over 5 million people, markets had a mixed reaction Monday.

WHO

From Page 1

lead to surges with "severe consequences."

The assessment from the U.N. health agency, contained in a technical paper issued to member states, amounted to WHO's strongest, most explicit warning yet about the new version that was first identified days ago by researchers in South Africa.

It came as a widening circle of countries around the world reported cases of the variant and moved to slam their doors in an act-now-ask-questions-later approach while scientists race to figure out just how dangerous the mutant version might be.

Japan announced it is barring entry to all foreign visitors, joining Israel in doing so. Morocco banned all incoming flights. Other countries, in-

Villagomez creating Ethics Committee to probe sex allegations against Propst

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is moving forward in creating a committee that will look into an ethics complaint filed against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry yesterday, Villagomez said he is in the process of putting together the Ethics Committee that will be composed of seven members. "Hopefully it will be set by the end of the week," he said.

When asked for comments, Propst said that Villagomez had spoken to him about it. "I

welcome it," he added.

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae, who is a counselor and an advocate for the rights of abused women, filed the ethics complaint against Propst last Nov. 9 over allegations that he had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College. Propst has denied the allegations.

Propst earlier stated that the complaint "is obviously a distraction" from the NMI Republican Party and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on the House Judiciary and Governmental

Operations Committee's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Villagomez said his intention is to have this Ethics Committee formed and kept for the rest of the 22nd Legislature's term so that if any other ethics complaint arises, they already have a committee for it.

This is the second time these allegations against Propst came up. No Ethics Committee was formed during the 21st Legislature regarding the same complaint against Propst after the latter resigned from his position as Precinct 1 House representative on Oct. 1, 2020.

Tinian Judiciary employee tests positive

The NMI Supreme Court ordered yesterday the immediate closure of the Tinian courthouse, Kotten Tinian, until Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, soon after a Tinian courthouse employee tested positive for COVID-19.

In a press statement yesterday, it said the closure of Kotten Tinian is necessary for disinfection purposes. "The safety of Judiciary employees and court patrons continues to be the No. 1 priority of the NMI Judiciary,"

the news release stated.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, the NMI Judiciary informed employees on Tinian that an employee at Kotten Tinian tested positive for COVID-19. The Judiciary also informed Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan of this development.

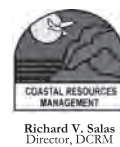
"The Judiciary continues to follow the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's guidance and would like to ensure employees and court patrons the Judiciary is taking all the

necessary steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho.

For court services with Kotten Tinian, contact CNMI Supreme Court Clerk of Court Judy T. Aldan at (670) 236-9718 or judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.com or CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court Patrick V. Diaz at (670) 236-9766 or (670) 783-8417 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. **(PR)**



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Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

KOBLERVILLE HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2001-X-213-A1

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed additional lots of the Koblerville Homestead Subdivision project on Saipan.

The Department of Public Lands is proposing to increase the Koblerville Homestead Subdivision to 330 residential lots by decreasing the homestead lot size. The project includes installation of water, power, and sewer line connections, stormwater ponding basin, access roads, and sidewalks. The project site is situated on public land identified as Lot No. 048101, measuring approximately 62 acres.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, December 16, 2020, at 5:00PM, at the BECO 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Koblerville Homestead Subdivision project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR (2 POSITIONS)

Job Summary: The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, other NMCADSV staff, and its Board to achieve its mission, goals and objectives. The Program Coordinator will participate in the daily operations of NMCADSV, as well as provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will work with the Associate Director to plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or Equivalent; an agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; experience with community organizing and/or outreach; experience planning and executing events; demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication; proficiency in MS Applications or Google Applications; ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines; ability to work some nights and weekends; and must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland.

Highly-Desired Qualifications: Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence; 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism; and own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Non-Exempt. \$14.00 to \$18.25 per hour (based on experience and qualifications). Full benefits including paid leave and health insurance.

To Apply: A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before **5:00pm on Tuesday, December 7, 2021**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Resumes, cover letters, and other documents may be emailed to info@endviolencenmi.org OR delivered to the NMCADSV Office at the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation OR mailed to NMCADSV postmarked on or before the deadline. Applicants who are asked to interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance (dated within 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply. Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org OR downloaded from <https://linktr.ee/endviolencenmi> OR picked up from the NMCADSV Office.

This project is supported by Grant No. 2019-MU-AX-0013 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2101MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 234-3878
EMAIL: INFO@ENDVIOLENCENMI.ORG
HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM, M-F, CLOSED ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART) MANAGER

Job Summary: The SART Manager will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, NMCADSV staff, and its Board to achieve the mission, goals, and objectives of the organization. The SART Manager will be primarily responsible for CNMI-wide systems advocacy to cultivate the prevention of sexual violence and victim-centered responses for victims of sexual assault. This includes taking a leadership role in facilitating cross-discipline collaboration, providing ongoing training and technical assistance to SART members and allied organizations, and obtaining feedback from all partners to develop policies and protocols that support victim-centered and empowerment-based responses to victims of sexual assault.

Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or Equivalent; an understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; strong communication skills, verbal and written, with diverse groups of people and professionals; strong organizational, collaborative, and project management skills; experience with training or providing education to various audiences; experience with facilitating meetings and bringing stakeholders together for collaborative efforts; ability to facilitate engagement and interest among allied partners with positive and professional communication; ability to organize and work with partners from a variety of organizations such as law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, court personnel, healthcare professionals, and other community organizations; experience with assessments and analysis; ability to implement complex projects with extremely tight deadlines; must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland; and must have access to reliable transportation.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Exempt. \$16 to \$22 per hour (based on experience and qualifications). Full benefits including paid leave and health insurance.

To Apply: A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before **5:00pm on Tuesday, December 7, 2021**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Resumes, cover letters, and other documents may be emailed to info@endviolencenmi.org OR delivered to the NMCADSV Office at the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation OR mailed to NMCADSV postmarked on or before the deadline. Applicants who are asked to interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance (dated within 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply. Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org OR downloaded from <https://linktr.ee/endviolencenmi> OR picked up from the NMCADSV Office.

This project is supported by Grant No. 2019-WR-AX-0051 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Angelo Villagomez joins CAP's Energy and Environment Department

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Center for American Progress announced yesterday that Angelo Villagomez has joined the Energy and Environment Department as a senior fellow.

At CAP, Villagomez will provide expertise in Indigenous-led conservation efforts and ocean conservation.

Villagomez comes to the organization from The Pew Charitable Trusts, where he served as campaigns manager for the Blue Nature Alliance, a global partnership working to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. He has written extensively about creating du-

table conservation outcomes by including Indigenous voices in the process.

"Villagomez is a powerful voice for the need to center Indigenous people—who have millennia of experience and stand to be affected most by the climate and conservation crises—in conservation policy," said Christy Goldfuss, senior vice president for Energy

and Environment Policy at CAP. "He is also an expert in ocean conservation, with particular expertise in marine protected areas. He was central to the designation of the Mariana Trench Marine

National Monument, among other accomplishments. We are excited for him to bring his experience and perspec-

tive to CAP's Conservation Policy team."

Villagomez has also worked for the League of Conserva-

tion Voters, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance. He attained bachelor's degrees in

biology from the University of Richmond and environmental policy from Rollins College. (PR)



Villagomez

GAIN donates pet food, supplies

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan received another shipment of dog food, cat food, and kennel supplies from Guam Animals in Need as a donation to help the office's Dog Control Program run a temporary kennel in As Perdido, Saipan.

"The generous donation from GAIN could not have come at a better time than now, as our Dog Control Program is running very low on dog and cat food and kennel supplies," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. "Our good friends at GAIN, Ms. Alison Hadley and her wonderful team, have been reaching out to us by donating much-needed supplies when they have enough to share with us. We are very thankful for their kindness and their concern about the welfare and health of our local dog population."

His office received 13 bags of dry dog food, nine bags of dry cat food, 11 boxes of paper towels, 20 boxes of 33-gallon plastic bags, and 12 90-fluid

ounce dish detergents.

"These supplies are essential in making sure we take care of the animals we bring to the shelter to be impounded, as we are mandated by regulations to ensure each animal receives proper care," the mayor said.

While most dogs the Dog Control Program impounds are claimed by their owners during the impoundment period of five consecutive days or 120 hours, many are not. Some unclaimed dogs are eventually adopted by local residents. The CNMI's dog control program regulations require payment of impoundment and adoption fees before releasing any dog back to the owner or an adopting owner.

"Our new multifunctional animal shelter is nearing completion and once that shelter

is turned over to us in January 2022, we will have a facility to impound more than 80 dogs at any given time in the large kennel section. Our state veterinarian would have two clinical rooms to examine dogs needing care, and our staff would operate an office to assist our residents register their pets, hear their concerns, and receive information about the dog control program," according to the mayor.

Martin Pangelinan, who is the Dog Control Program manager, said the task of controlling the island's dog population "is and should be a collective effort of our office's dog control program and our residents."

"We cannot deny that many dogs we see roaming our village neighborhoods, public places and beaches are not owned by anyone. These dogs

are out there freely roaming and looking for ways to survive on their own by scavenging food in public and private trash cans, and coming around residential homes where homeowners would sometimes give them scraps," he said.

"We need our residents to help us remove as many free roaming dogs from our neighborhoods, public places, near school grounds, and other places by calling and letting us know where these dogs are at. Our Dog Control Program is manned by five employees that we split into two teams, and with the many calls we receive daily and removing vicious and stray dogs, it is a never-ending task and challenge for us," said Pangelinan. "We need and appreciate the help of our residents make our neighborhoods and public places safe." (PR)



Guam Animals in Need donates a pallet of dog food, cat food, and kennel supplies to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
MEC, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. MEC, LLC, is proposing to construct an additional warehouse measuring 166' (L) x 60' (W) x 15' (H) for its Warehousing & General Wholesaling use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 380 Bnew-7-1-R2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 15, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 14, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JEAN DOMINE DUMAONG
Petitioner,
Vs.
ELMER DOMINE CABUS
Respondent,

FCD-DI
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 21-0280

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO ELMER DOMINE CABUS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 984 P.O. Box 10,000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2021.

/S/ Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

December 15, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/04/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8054** – YAS Farms is proposing to construct two (2) high tunnel systems, each measuring 72' (L) x 32' (W) x 12' (H) to be utilized as greenhouses and one (1) warehouse structure measuring 50' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H) to be utilized for its flowering room, vegetating room, office and storage space for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on E.A.221 R2 & H 221-1-1 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-9660** – MEC, LLC is proposing to construct an additional warehouse measuring 166' (L) x 60' (W) x 15' (H) for its Warehousing & General Wholesaling use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 380 Bnew-7-1-R2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8903** – Adefta Lot, LLC is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8904** – Adefta Lot, LLC is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8931** – CannaBlyss, Inc. is proposing to amend conditional use permit no. 2020-7539 to utilize a portion of an existing structure (Building B) measuring 10.3' (L) x 19.5' (W) x 10.2' (H) for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No 1856 New-6-1 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8929** – Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy a vacant lot and utilize fourteen (14) 10' (L) x 10' (W) canopy tents for its outdoor growing area. This use is classified as Cannabis Farm and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 549-2-R2 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
7. **Conditional Use Application #2020-9931** – Triple Star International Corporation dba Triple Star Recycling is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 37' (L) x 100' (W) for its scrap metal recycling center. This use is classified as Manufacturing & Processing and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 22560-R2 in the village of As Perdido. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

Pentagon: Few changes to U.S. overseas military ‘footprint’

By ROBERT BURNS
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of study, the Pentagon has decided no immediate major changes are needed in the global positioning of U.S. forces, although it will further analyze force needs in the Middle East and make refinements in Asia and the Pacific, officials said Monday.

The outcome of the study, which began in March at Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s direction, reflects a complex security picture facing the Biden administration,

which fully withdrew from Afghanistan in August but is increasingly concerned about countering China in the Asia-Pacific region and Russia in Europe. Iran presents a further challenge, including in Iraq and Syria, which makes it difficult to allocate more U.S. forces to other parts of the world.

With China in mind, the Pentagon plans to make infrastructure improvements in some parts of the Pacific, including in Guam and Australia. In September the U.S. announced a new partnership with Australia and Britain to deepen security, diplomatic and defense cooper-

ation in the Asia-Pacific region. As part of that AUKUS partnership, Australia is to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, and the U.S. is to increase rotational force deployments to Australia.

The Austin review is the first of several broad assessments by the administration of its defense priorities and policies. They include a reassessment of nuclear forces—their size and makeup, as well as the policies associated with their potential use—that is due to be finished early next year. The Pentagon also is working on a revised National Defense Strategy that would

frame the full scope of defense policies, including the role of nuclear deterrence, cyber-threats, international alliances, and force modernization.

The Austin study, known as the Global Posture Review, has set the stage for adjustments to U.S. force positioning in the coming two to three years, said Mara Karlin, the interim deputy under secretary of defense for policy. She said a number of force adjustments in the Asia-Pacific and elsewhere are in the works but require further consultation with foreign governments.

Karlin said that in Austra-

lia, the plan is to make new rotational deployments of U.S. fighter and bomber aircraft, as well as U.S. ground forces training. More broadly across the Pacific, including in Guam, the U.S. intends to build new infrastructure such as fuel and munitions storage facilities and airfield upgrades.

“We’re doing a lot that will hopefully come to fruition in the coming years,” she said.

Some changes to U.S. force posture were announced earlier this year. In April, for example, Austin announced plans to expand the U.S. military presence in Germany by

500 troops and a halt to planning for large-scale troops cuts that had been ordered by the Trump administration.

At the time of Austin’s announcement, U.S. and European officials were expressing concern about a buildup of Russian forces near Ukraine’s border. That crisis abated, but in recent weeks it has returned amid worry that Moscow might be planning a military incursion into Ukraine.

Austin earlier this year also approved the withdrawal of some air and missile defense forces from the Persian Gulf area.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
YAS Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. YAS Farms, is proposing to construct two (2) high tunnel systems, each measuring **72' (L) x 32' (W) x 12' (H)** to be utilized as greenhouses and one (1) warehouse structure measuring **50' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H)** to be utilized for its flowering room, vegetating room, office and storage space for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on E.A.221 R2 & H 221-1-1 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 15, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 14, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Triple Star International Corporation
dba Triple Star Recycling

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Triple Star Recycling, is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **37' (L) x 100' (W)** for its scrap metal recycling center. This use is classified as Manufacturing & Processing and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 22560-R2 in the village of As Perdido. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

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/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy a vacant lot and utilize fourteen **(14) 10' (L) x 10' (W)** canopy tents for its outdoor growing area. This use is classified as Cannabis Farm and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 549-2-R2 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 15, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
CannaBlyss Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. CannaBlyss Inc. is proposing to amend conditional use permit no. 2020-7539 to utilize a portion of an existing structure (Building B) measuring **10.3' (L) x 19.5' (W) x 10.2' (H)** for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No 1856 New-6-1in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

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/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Adetfa Lot, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Adetfa Lot, LLC, is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

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/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

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Adetfa Lot, LLC

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/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

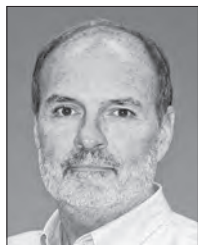
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Breaking even against American vigilantism

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service*John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.*

The subtext of two prominent trials in recent weeks is vigilantism, the questionable notion that the institutions that we depend on—the police, especially—have declined into such impotence that ordinary citizens are called upon to maintain peace and order on their own.

In both trials, justice prevailed, that is, the juries returned the correct verdict. Last week in Brunswick, Georgia, Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William Bryan were found guilty of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. Video shows clearly that Arbery was cornered and harassed to the point of desperation. He must have felt that he was fighting for his life when Travis McMichael killed him with three shotgun blasts.

The two McMichaels and Bryan face life in prison. The system worked and vigilantism lost.

On the other hand, recently Kyle Rittenhouse was charged with murder after he killed two men and injured another during a night of unrest in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse did plenty that was wrong: He should never have been in Kenosha, he shouldn't have been carrying a deadly weapon and he shouldn't have been out after curfew.

But once he was attacked, he put his AR-15 to the use for which it was intended: He defended himself. The jury agreed and he was acquitted. The system worked, but, unfortunately, vigilantism won.

The political right immediately embraced Rittenhouse as a hero. Tucker Carlson interviewed him. At least four House Republicans—Matt Gaetz, Paul Gosar, Madison Cawthorn, Lauren Boebert—immediately offered Rittenhouse an internship.

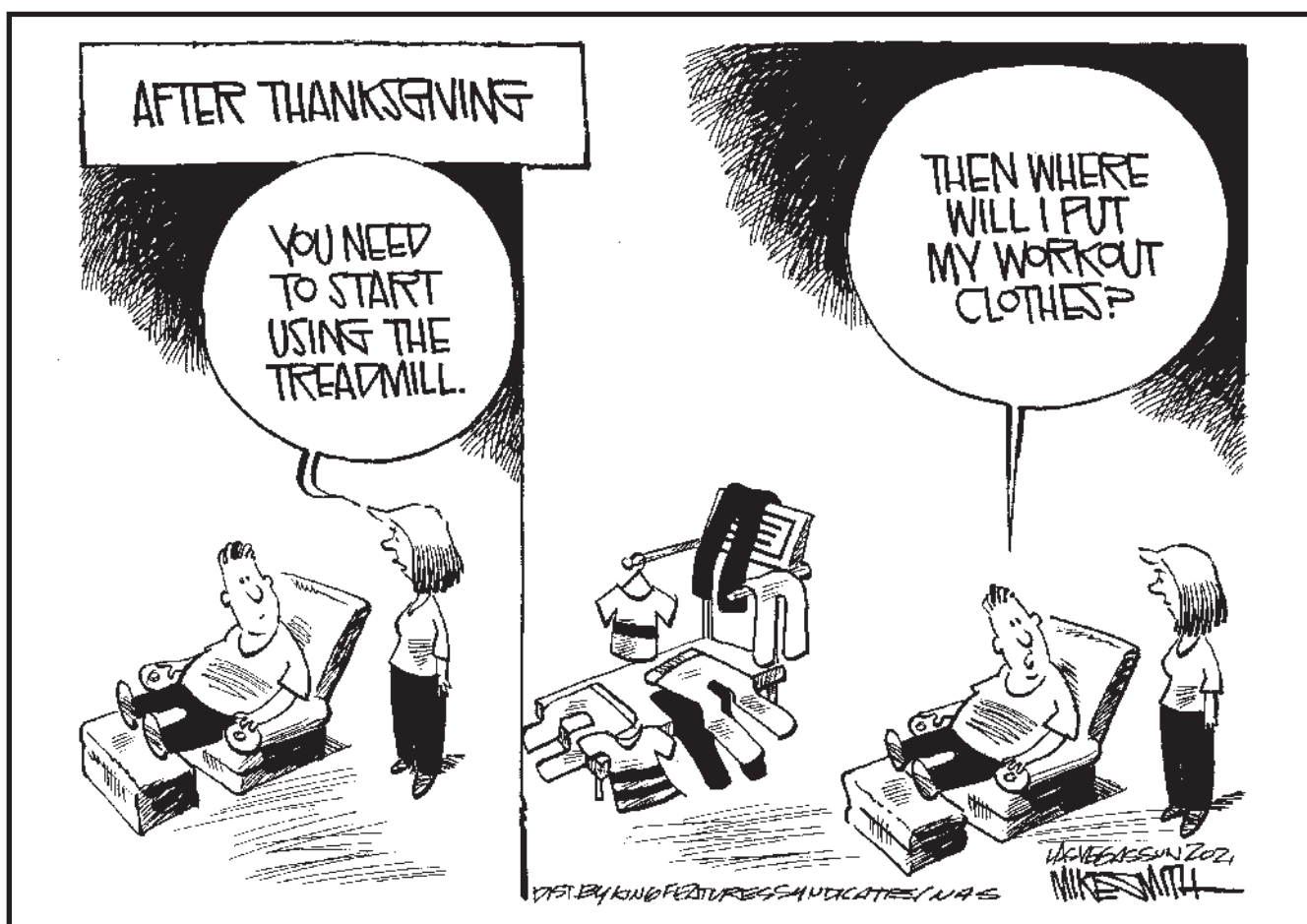
Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene introduced a bill to award to Rittenhouse a Congressional Gold Medal, the legislative branch's highest honor. Prior recipients include George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, Thomas Edison and Jonas Salk.

And last week Rittenhouse called on former president Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago, where they were photographed together smiling and offering the camera a double thumbs-up. Trump called Rittenhouse “really a nice young man.”

This enthusiasm for Rittenhouse makes sense for the Republican Party. The proposition that government institutions are incompetent and ineffective is essential to the party's brand. Whether in power or out, Republicans generally do their best to ensure that government—apart from an immense military—does as little as possible, as poorly as possible.

So while vigilantism lost in Georgia last week, Republicans hope to turn the Rittenhouse episode into a win. This is a very bad idea, for two reasons.

First, vigilantism feeds off fear and insecurity. Paradoxically, vigilantism also encourages macho fantasies of power and inclinations toward bluster. Thus we have men and boys who pose as warriors—body armor, camouflage and cool-looking weapons—but who overestimate their competence and underestimate

See **BREAKING** on Next Page

Keep calm and carry on vaccinating

At least we're learning. Remember when the early reaction to the outbreak of a deadly virus in Wuhan was to discourage people from changing their travel plans?

South Africa's government didn't sit on information about a new worrying variant of SARS-CoV-2, which the World Health Organization has dubbed omicron. It didn't downplay it. On the contrary, authorities shared detailed slides so that countries could develop their responses.

Now it's up to governments and local authorities to adapt to a fast-changing viral picture—one that remains blurry in places.

Genomic sequencing of infections in South Africa found that the variant B.1.1.529 contained many more mutations than the dominant delta variant. More worrying, some of the mutations occur in the area of the spike protein that is targeted by antibodies. That could mean existing vaccines will be less effective, something we should know with more certainty in the coming weeks.

On Friday evening, the WHO dubbed the variant omicron (not “nu,” which seemed to be the Twitter consensus; and, in some conversations, a previous mutation designated “mu”). It's also been called a “variant of concern,” which signifies it contains genetic changes that are known to affect transmissibility, disease severity or evade vaccines and therapies.

Certainly, omicron's transmissibility seems extremely high. The WHO was alerted on Nov. 24 and says the variant was identified from a specimen collected on Nov. 9. It is already in evidence in most of South Africa's provinces, along with Botswana, and cases have been found in Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. On Saturday, the U.K. government said two cases of omicron have been found in Britain. It's quite likely it has spread elsewhere, too.

While South African officials are unhappy with it, travel restrictions are the obvious first response. The U.K. government announced a temporary travel ban on several countries Thursday night. However, when a flight from Gauteng—the South African province that includes Johannesburg—arrived in London Friday, some 300 passengers were released into the wild with only an advisory message to self-isolate and take some tests. (For a government that has done a lot of complaining about lax French border controls, that counts as an own goal.)

Meanwhile, Israel put in new travel restrictions, quarantines and PCR testing at the border. The EU recommended an “emergency brake” on travel from South Africa. These restrictions merely buy a little time to map out the next steps. If scientists confirm that omicron can indeed escape the defenses of current vaccines, then the race is on to develop a better defensive weapon.

Pfizer Inc. says it can deliver a vaccine that would counter the new variant within 100 days of sequencing. That's fast. Regula-

By THERESE RAPHAEL
Bloomberg Opinion*Therese Raphael is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. She was editorial page editor of the Wall Street Journal Europe.*

tors like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are likely to speed approval processes for vaccines that are just tweaked for new variants. Pfizer estimates it could make 4 billion doses in the first 12 months. Another 8 billion doses of the Moderna Inc. and AstraZeneca Plc vaccines are likely to be available in a similar time frame.

Even so, testing will need to be done on the updated vaccine. Getting it into enough arms will take many months, even with delivery systems primed by the current vaccine rollout.

Other lines of defense will be important, too. There are questions about whether the new variant may change the effectiveness of monoclonal antibody treatments, proteins that attach to a specific target in the spike protein of the virus and can be a key tool in treating early infection and even as a prophylaxis in those vulnerable to serious illness.

Maybe we'll get lucky. The authors of a study published in the journal *Nature* in September found the presence of “abundant” neutralizing antibody targets on the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; it apparently takes a lot of mutations to escape vaccines or natural infection. Then again, omicron has around 50 mutations and more than 30 in the spike protein, far more than the delta variant. Ten of the mutations are in the so-called receptor binding domain (RBD), which is the part of the virus that makes contact with cells first; that's compared to two with delta.

Omicron was a statistical probability long before it actually turned up. With a 24% vaccination rate, it's hardly a surprise it first appeared in South Africa. The Hong Kong case was in a vaccinated traveler; the Belgian in an unvaccinated one. The longer it takes to vaccinate whole populations, the faster we'll cycle through the Greek alphabet with new variants; the only way to prevent that is to vaccinate more people faster.

Wherever omicron is seeded, it's likely we'll need the now familiar range of detection and mitigation measures—mask mandates in public places, more frequent testing and work-from-home guidance. While these measures are already back in place in much of Europe, it would be an unwelcome regression for the U.K., where mask-wearing is progressively rarer.

South Africa's transparency and the early response suggests we're at least learning the first lesson of pandemic management: that “wait and see” is a losing strategy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Beginning to understand the Chinese mindset: A necessary exercise for our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization

Our Chamorro Pacific Islander people have a real incentive to pay ongoing and close attention to the arms race taking place between the United States and China. Our island chain civilization is relatively close to China and its near seas region. Our island chain, more importantly, is located on the eastern portion of the Philippine Sea, which has become a regional center of gravity for naval training, operations and patrolling. The Americans, Asians, Europeans, Australians and Canadians are now fully present and visible in our region in ways never seen before. The Russians and Chinese are also ever present in the area.

As China, the United States, and other nations train for war, it is in our interest to take a couple of steps back and revisit fundamental aspects of the Chinese government and how it continues to think about and prepare for war. Our island chain, especially Guam, is already heavily militarized with some of America's most unique units operating, homeporting, training and transiting to and from our island home. These kinds of activities make the Marianas a high priority potential military target for the Chinese government.

One way for our people to better understand the mindset of the Chinese Communist Party is to think longer term than what Americans usually view as long term. Two-, four-, or six-year increments down the road are not helpful frames for contemplating the future because they are all too short-term.

The nature of the governmental beast: America and China

For better or for worse, our existing insular governmental structures reflect American design to the core. We hold political elections every two years, some people win and some people get voted out of office. We tend to place too much focus on legislative issues, or real-time political nonsense that revolves around personality politics, while discounting the hard work performed by non-political types working for the government of Guam and/or the government of the CNMI.

China's governmental structures constitute a different story altogether. China is a much older country than the United States because it has been around for thousands of years. The Chinese government is fundamentally different as well in terms of its overall organizational structure, its Communist Party doctrine, how it makes decisions, how it controls the broad Chinese population, and how it views time and space.

The American empire and its national government, by con-

trast, is a relatively new entity and new world power.

Time is everything and it is subjective

The Chinese think in terms of decades when it comes to achieving or realizing national strategic objectives. Fifty to 100 years in the future is not something that is unusual for Chinese governmental leaders when it comes to assigning timelines on long-term priorities.

The United States, by comparison, views the world using much shorter periods of time to judge progress made or plan for specific outcomes. Many long-term political objectives are framed using four- or five-year windows, reflecting how the American system of government works. The military buildup in Guam is unusual in the American experiment in terms of the number of years it has taken to move things along for the U.S. national government.

Taiwan remains the strategic prize for the Chinese government and they will wait all day and all night to achieve this long-term objective

The American and international media have generally reported on Taiwan and its relationship with the United States and/or with China as a medium-term prize. This kind of perspective may not be the most effective way for our western Pacific Islander civilization to baseline our collective interpretation and understanding of Taiwan. Instead, we should take a point of view that extends 75 years from today, thinking about how the Chinese government can and may go about incrementally bringing Taiwan closer and closer into its immediate political orbit.

China's long view syncs up with its desire to outdo the United States when it comes to applying technological advancements in economics and toward winning future wars.

The Chinese government has stated in its official documents that it takes a much longer perspective of international and regional affairs compared to the American empire. The Chinese government wants to eclipse the United States and lead the rest of the world through its economic prowess. It seeks to do this using a multitude of national tools such as providing international grant money, building out the Belt and Road Initiative, and investing cash directly in a variety of industries that will give China technological advantage over time. Part of this effort to become the undisputed world economic leader is through the employment of state-of-the-art transformative technology such as artificial intelligence, in ways that disadvantage the west and the United States over long periods of time.

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

When it comes to Guam, the Marianas and Micronesia, China remains deeply focused on delivering money to regional governments as one of several ways to build diplomatic and geographical based relationships with Pacific Island nations and civilizations. China remains focused as well on spying on all activities related to the American military.

Why it is so important for our Chamorro Pacific Islanders to learn as much as is possible about China

The Chinese government has the ability to start or respond to a nuclear attack and the Marianas Islands chain is a high value target because our home is relatively close to China and is highly militarized by the Pentagon. The Chinese government has the ability to take down all critical infrastructure nodes throughout the Marianas such as water, power, sewer, and information grids as one of several ways to neutralize America's ability to conduct and wage war from the western Pacific.

The Chinese government is primarily interested in learning how it can successfully take down and/or prevent American submarines, bombers, missile defense weapons, and surface ships from possible use against the PLA(N) in times of war. The Chinese government is capable of damaging or destroying low-orbit earth satellites. Should American satellites be taken out, it could result in our nation's military crippled in ways that we don't want to think about. An inoperable GPS system, for example, may halt commercial and sea-based traffic into and out of our island chain. The list of nightmare scenarios goes on and on because of how much our island chain depends on space-based infrastructure systems that allow for us to go about our daily routines without giving much thought to just how dependent we are to modern-day technologies.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The time to act is now

Just going to say what everyone else is saying and wondering: When is the CNMI government going to act aggressively to contain the ongoing community-wide COVID-19 outbreak and when will they reinstitute more restrictive quarantine measures for incoming residents and visitors given the global rise of the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant?

Researchers and infectious disease specialists the world over are assessing and trying to quantify the threat posed by the omicron variant. Based on what is presently known, omicron certainly poses an increased risk of transmission and it may evade much of the protection afforded by current vaccines. Countries including Japan and South Korea are closing their borders and

restricting travel and entry, all the while it seems that local politicians and bureaucrats ponder what to do next and squander all the hard work they and the citizens of the CNMI have made in order to previously control the virus and excluded it from our communities and schools. Though the CNMI's high vaccination rate is likely preventing serious cases, the medical support system remains shallow and limited and the threat of serious disease confronts seniors, the unvaccinated, those with serious pre-existing conditions and the immunocompromised. It's also a fact that the actual number of infections is likely to be three or more times the number reported and that about 30% of those who are infected by the virus will experience some long-term symptoms/problems like

brain fog or a loss of smell or distorted sense of smell.

Even if we are to err, let's err on the side of caution. It's time to extend quarantine times, conduct community-wide testing, aggressively administer booster shots throughout the CNMI, enact a limited 10- to 14-day shutdown (except for essential operations, getting food/supplies, getting medical care or exercising) and being diligent to wear a mask and to social distance, especially when indoors.

The time to act is now.

Mark Farmer

Garapan, Saipan

BREAKING

From Page 8

the challenge of using powerful firearms judiciously when things start to get out of hand.

So despite their swagger, when things got difficult, all Rittenhouse and the two McMichaels knew how to do was pull the trigger.

Second, vigilantism always involves racism. White people






aren't worried about white police being able to protect them from other white people. If you doubt the racial element, try to imagine Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William Bryan chasing down and killing a white kid who happened to be jogging through their neighborhood.

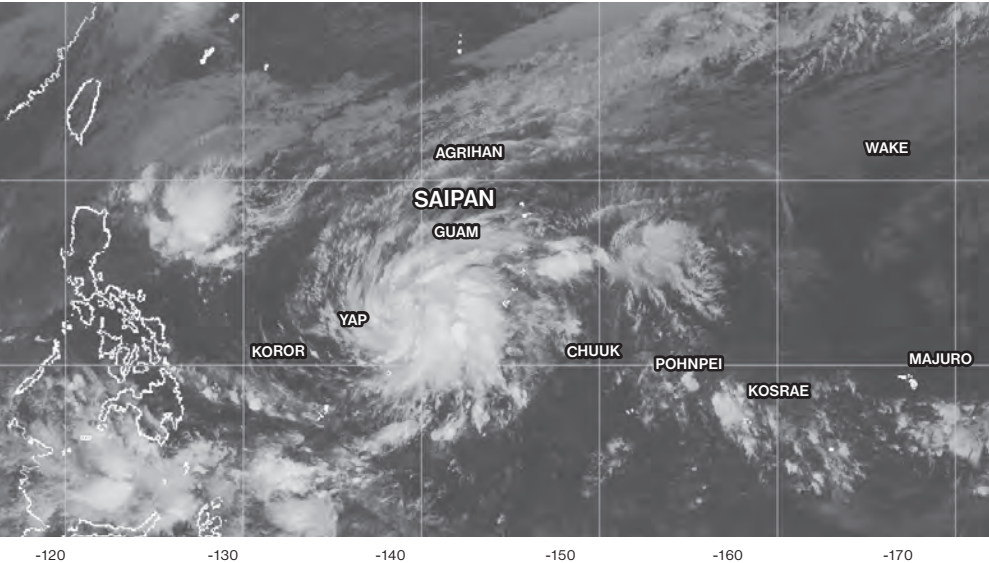
Vigilantism is hardly new in American history, but few images are more suited to our age than Donald Trump and Kyle Rittenhouse mugging for the camera at Mar-a-Lago. Trump has sustained his political life by exploiting insecurity and encouraging extrajudicial remedies.

At his rallies Trump urged his fans to rough up hecklers, and he encouraged police officers not to be too gentle during arrests. And if the definition of vigilantism is to take the law into your own hands, Trump praised, supported and encouraged a vigilante mob to attack our national capitol on Jan. 6 in an effort to overturn the rule of law.

No wonder the Republicans like vigilantes. Trump is the Vigilante in Chief. As long as he continues to spread his big lie that he won the election in 2020, his party will be the welcoming home to those Americans who think that vigilante violence is the only remedy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
85°	76°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly cloudy skies and bands of deep convection rotating through the Marianas this morning. Winds have subsided since yesterday with mainly moderate east winds. Tropical Storm 27W (formerly JTWC Invest 93W) is centered roughly 330 miles west of Guam and 250 miles north of Yap... moving west-northwestward into the open waters of the Philippine Sea.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:56 AM	3:08 PM	-
Thursday	3:54 AM	3:53 PM	-
Friday	4:56 AM	4:42 PM	-
Saturday	6:02 AM	5:38 PM	-
Sunday	7:11 AM	6:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°	
Miami	Showers	80° / 72°	
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°	
Busan	Sunny	46° / 32°	
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37° / 21°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	46° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:04 AM	Low Tide	1.42	
10:42 AM	High Tide	0.53	
4:52 PM	Low Tide	1.88	
11:48 PM	High Tide	-0.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam	UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1					
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



Hyatt Regency Saipan: Caring for people

Toward the **next 40 years** of quality hotel service in the CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

For the past 41 years, Hyatt Regency Saipan has provided nothing but top-of-the-line service to its guests and patrons, and a care that has been lovingly extended not just to its own staff, but also to the entire CNMI community.

From weddings to baptisms, brunches at Kili Café & Terrace to fine dining at Giovanni's, or simply just spending a night and lounging by the pool, everyone on island has their own Hyatt story to share.

For Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, his story began 13-and-a-half years ago. Admittedly, his first impression is that the hotel is old—the buildings, the rooms, and the design—and that renovations have to be made to make it at par with Hyatt hotels worldwide. At that time, with a lease up in the air, the hotel has to focus on what they do best—providing quality service.

Despite many years of hardships that had affected tourism on island, the Lehman shock in 2008, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, the back-to-back super typhoons in 2015 and 2018, and now, the

COVID-19 pandemic, Hyatt Regency Saipan has steadfastly provided top-of-the line service to all of its guests.

"I have been in this industry for 39 years," Nishikawa said. "Our passion is to take care of the customers daily. Even though we are an old hotel, we have to be clean. We have to offer good service. We know the weak points and the strong points of this hotel, so once we get the 40 years new lease, and of course, with the renovations, this hotel is going to be fantastic."

Next year will be exciting for Hyatt Regency Saipan as they welcome yet another 40 years in the CNMI. With a new lease comes new facilities, new rooms, new restaurants, new concept, to meet the Hyatt Regency standard known all across the world.

See **HYATT** on Page 13

Hawthorne Cat congratulates the Hyatt Regency Saipan on celebrating 41 years in business!



671.649.4228
www.hawthornecat.com

HAWTHORNE





Hyatt Regency Saipan grand manager Nick Nishikawa and Hyatt director for Human Resources Josephine Mesta.

'We care for people so they can be their best'

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

That is the Hyatt philosophy—one which the management of the Hyatt Regency Saipan deeply holds on to,

especially during this pandemic. These days, they are operating with less than half the number of their employees pre-pandemic, at just 118, and at times, they get challenged, especially when there

is not a lot of guests to serve.

People is their business and when they don't have guests, like how it is now due to the pandemic, the morale goes down, according to Hyatt director for Human Resources Josephine Mesta. But, despite

the situation, they remain optimistic. Hyatt Regency Saipan is still up, and is eagerly looking forward to the next 40 years.

"I'm excited for what's going to happen for the next 40 years. It is going to be a nice change for the island as well as for the people working here, and also our guests to know that we still exist."

Hyatt's strong point is guest service. They take pride in having great and talented staff who love the work that they do, and who are well-accepted by the community. And, to provide the best hotel service possible, Hyatt Regency Saipan's management takes the selection process for their employees seriously, with trainings provided for the lucky ones who get chosen.

"We take time in our selection process. It's hard to just tell in 15-20 minutes what kind of people you are actually hiring. Through experience, we pretty much are good at detecting a person's character, and then we work with that. They may not have the skill at all, but they have the character to serve. We work on those strengths and that's how we build."

Training is extremely important for the Hyatt Regency Saipan. With very little formal education or training support on hotel operations and management in the CNMI, initial trainings for employees at the Hyatt normally takes over a year—to ensure they provide a high level of service for their guests.

"We received a comment that the hardware is old but the software is excellent," Mesta said, Hyatt's building being the hardware, and

See **WE CARE** on Page 14

'At the Hyatt, we are family'



The best thing working here at Hyatt is my coworkers—they're not only coworkers, they're my family. Yes, it is stressful, busy, but having people like them working with me, I wake up excited to go to work. We're all lucky that [the Hyatt lease] has been extended, people are looking forward to the new Hyatt renovations. Hopefully, by that time, everyone who got furloughed will come back, and if not, for sure, a lot of people would want to work at the Hyatt. I just love working here. I can't imagine myself working for other companies.

—Antonette A. Sengebau, front desk team leader

It's unfortunate that we have to experience the pandemic, but the best thing about being here is still serving the people. Any guests that walk in and out, I'm so glad that I get to encounter them and assist them in any way. This company is such a great company to work for. It's a brand company. The company really takes care of not just the staff but anyone who walks in and out of the hotel.

—Vanessa Palacios, secretary to the general manager



The best thing about working here at Hyatt is the people around me because it's more like a family than work. Everyone helps each other. I love it here. I don't think I can see myself anywhere else. I grew and learned a lot from this company.

—Angel Mendoza, graphic artist

It's good to work [at] Hyatt because we have full benefits, and we connect with each other. I've been working here for about 20 years, and that's why I can tell the future, if they choose a job here, that Hyatt is good. I wish one of my family would work here. I wish my son would work here, or at Hyatt Philippines or anywhere. Hyatt is the best.

—Rommel Galang, engineering and maintenance



The best thing about working here in Hyatt Regency Saipan is the people. Working with my colleagues makes the job bearable, they make it easy and they add fun to it. I'll be celebrating my five years next year, and I'm looking forward to it, but it feels like I've been just working here for months. That's how fun it is here. All of my coworkers, I treat them as a family, and I'm excited to see them every day. I hope I'm still here working in the next 40 years. I hope I'll be able to work here longer and I am excited to work for the new renovated Hyatt Regency Saipan.

—Jensen Fabella, food and beverage

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HYATT from Page 11

Nishikawa anticipates planning for the new hotel to start by the second half of next year, beginning with the Hyatt design team coming to assess the buildings and current facilities.

And while everyone waits in anticipation for what the hotel will be in the next 40 years, one thing is for sure: Right now, we can still expect the same high quality guest service that the hotel staff has been providing these past four decades, which Nishikawa refers to as the Hyatt Regency Saipan's strongest point.

It is all about the guest experience.

"We have one Japanese guest who has been here from Day 1. He still comes twice or three times a year. As long as we have these guests, we have to be here to serve them. Even new guests, we need to take care of them so they become repeat customers, [so they] continue to come here."

Aside from a new look for the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Nishikawa also expressed optimism on the prospect of more international hotel brands opening on island.

"We have more than a thousand Hyatt hotels in the world. Beside us, we have the Intercontinental Crowne Plaza IHG. One [international brand] hotel can do only this much, but two hotels can do more to present [the CNMI] in the world market which, I think, is good for this island," he added.

"Each [hotel] operator has marketing money to promote overseas. It used to be only using this marketing money throughout the world, but now, [with] IHG, I am

sure they will use those marketing money to promote this destination, Saipan, more."

Saipan, with the rest of the Northern Mariana Islands, is a tropical paradise boasting crystal clear pristine waters, colorful marine life, a rich culture, and the warmest people.

"I like Saipan. Saipan has a good nature. The people here are very friendly. It's very resort-[friendly], it's a small island. I have been to many places, and Saipan is exactly the right place for retirement, to relax, enjoy, play golf, and get into marine sports."

According to Nishikawa, every two weeks, there is a hotel opening somewhere in the world. Customers would stay in these brand new hotels, and then come to Saipan, check in at the Hyatt, and would say, "Is this Hyatt?" Looking at the old facility, they compare, he added.

But, things are looking up for the Hyatt Regency Saipan. With their new 40-year lease beginning on the first day of January 2022, everyone at the Hyatt is excited.

"On behalf of the owner, I want to say thank you so much to the people of the CNMI and Saipan who have been supporting this hotel in the past 40 years. Without their support, the Hyatt will not be here. So, we look forward to another 40 years here and I hope that people continue to give us support."

Hyatt Regency Saipan will be celebrating its 41st anniversary with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and a staff party this Dec. 1, a prelude to welcoming 40 more years of dedicated quality service to their guests, their staff, and the CNMI community.



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Nostalgic Feels: Our best Hyatt memories

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan is celebrating its 41st year of providing quality hotel experience for all of their guests. As they enter a new phase of 40 more glorious years in the CNMI, here are a few moments that the Hyatt patrons have shared, that are sure to bring some nostalgic feels in everyone.

There are many wonderful memories for me at The Hyatt. From family photos, brunches and countless celebrations. But one stands out for me the most and it was my late grandmother's 70th birthday celebration. The staff and management executed it perfectly, which made the night a wonderful memory that I will never forget. Other memories was when Gilligan's was a dance club where the Sandcastle (not sure of that is the name) is now and they used to host many concerts and comedy shows. And lastly back in the '90s, my late Dad always took us to the Teppanyaki restaurant at the Hyatt and the great service and food can never be forgotten. Thank you, Hyatt, and I will make more memories with my children at your wonderful hotel.

Sen. Vinnie Sablan



"My fondest Hyatt memories include beach sunsets at Skippers, hanging out with my mom all day at the spa and pool to help her maximize her club passes before they expired, and visiting with the Hyatt's resident reef herons in the garden with my godchildren."

Rep. Tina Sablan

"Oh boy...so many memories. Perhaps one of my greatest memories is having a romantic dinner with Daisy at the Oceana House (now Giovanni's) and then proposing to her at a Polynesian dinner show onstage afterwards at Gilligan's. Thank God she said yes, as there was a crowd of over 100 people in the audience. We celebrate our anniversary dinner every year at Hyatt, but with four kids joining us."

Rep. Edwin Propst



"There are so many precious memories my family and I have shared at the Hyatt. From attending the Red Cross Club 200, Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year's, Valentine's Day, weddings, and birthdays—Hyatt has made those memories beautiful because of the excellent staff and management making sure all our guest needs are met. I know our 6-year old daughter, Alexandra, always looks forward to feeding the fish from the Japanese gardens with some Hyatt freshly baked bread."

Beth Demapan, Gil Birnbrich, and Alexandra Birnbrich



"Hyatt is where I proposed to the first lady, Diann Mendiola Tudela, on Dec. 4, 2014. The Boise State alumni hosted former secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne during his visit at the seaside. [We] also hosted Sen. [Lisa] Murkowski and the delegation, as well as Chairman Ryan Bishop."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

Maya Angelou once said, "People will forget what you said. They will forget what you did. But they will never forget how you made them feel."

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library humbly thanks the Hyatt Regency Saipan for sharing 41 years of exemplary hospitality service to our CNMI community! We value the hard work and commitment your organization does in giving back to our community, especially our public libraries! You help pay it forward when you provided funding for our Video Tele-Conference Center, which has been used as a community meeting space—and continuously generating funds for our programs. You continue to sponsor our Summer Reading Program annually, which helps reach thousands of underserved families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota every year with much needed books, activities, and supplies to keep our communities learning. You sponsor our Friends of the JKPL Golf Tournament Fundraiser which helps generate funds for year-long programming needs. You have reached so many families in so many ways behind the scenes. Happy 41st anniversary Hyatt Regency Saipan! Thank you and si yuús maáse!

—Joeten-Kiyu Public Library family

WE CARE from Page 12

their service, the software. "That is what we share with our staff. We really can't do much about the structure of the building and the design of the building but we can make our guests have the experience."

With talks envisioning the CNMI as a world-class, high-end tourist destination by 2031, Mesta stressed the need to advance the quality of people in the workforce.

"If we're going to be a world-class destination, we need to have world-class workers. ...We [need] to start with the attitude that we are going to serve people and we are going to provide quality services, and that's through training and changing mindsets. Start from there," she added.

And that exactly is what Hyatt Regency Saipan is doing for their employees through all these years—providing training, changing mindsets—and more.

"At Hyatt, we care for people so they can be their best. We provide that care," Mesta said. "I know that we over extend ourselves sometimes but that's how we feel. It's like a one small family. Everything counts about an employee, not just at work, but also outside of work."

"I believe that's the secret, how you take care of people. You take care of your staff, the staff will take care of your guests. So far, that has worked."



"My best Hyatt memories definitely took place at the beach side. The view, cozy accommodations, and the nearby bar made my swimming experience one for the books!"

KSPN host Sally Limes

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on your 41st Anniversary!

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
CHUNG NAM CORP.

Business

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

CBP recommends top 10 travel tips

WASHINGTON—As non-essential travel restrictions lift and travelers prepare for the busy holiday season, advance preparation will become even more important. Longer-than-normal wait times and long lines at air and land ports of entry are expected, so travelers are reminded to exercise patience. However, to make their wait times as expedient as possible, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is providing 10 travel tips to improve the travel experience.

1 Prepare your documents. Before embarking on a trip to the United States, travelers should be prepared for the following:

■ Possess a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative document, such as a valid U.S.

passport, Trusted Traveler Program card, or Enhanced Tribal Card, ready.

■ Possess proof of an approved COVID-19 vaccination as outlined on the CDC website, and verbally attest to your travel intent and COVID-19 vaccination status.

■ Be prepared to present any other documents requested by the CBP officer.

2 Facial biometrics. Travelers should be prepared to have their photo taken by a CBP officer during the enhanced inspections process at entry. Known as Simplified Arrival, travelers now have their identity verified through a secure, touchless facial biometrics process that further secures and streamlines travel into the United

States. The biometric facial comparison process only takes a few seconds and is more than 98 percent accurate while protecting travelers' privacy. U.S. citizens can voluntarily participate in the facial biometric process. More information on CBP's use of facial biometrics and the opt out process for U.S. citizens can be found here.

3 Research your destination. U.S. citizens planning to travel outside of the United States for the holidays should visit www.state.gov/travelers for destination information. Each country has its own COVID-19 and safety restrictions, so researching this information ahead of time will make the travel experience easier.

4 Download CBP One. Non-citizens traveling into the United States can download the CBP One mobile application to apply for an I-94 up to seven days in advance. CBP One is a mobile application that serves as a single point of entry for travelers and stakeholders to access CBP mobile applica-

tions and services. Through a series of intuitive questions, it will guide each type of user to the appropriate services based on their needs. The CBP One app can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

5 Prep your ESTA or I-94.

Although having an approved Electronic System for Travel Authorization is not a requirement to enter the United States through a land border, Visa Waiver Program country citizens and nationals must have an active ESTA to use the CBP One I-94 Apply feature. CBP encourages these travelers to obtain an approved ESTA to take advantage of the time savings offered by using CBP One or the CBP I-94 website. With an ESTA, these travelers can apply for their I-94 in advance of arrival and avoid filling out the Form I-94W at a port of entry.

6 Report your food, cash, and memorabilia. Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens must declare everything they bring into the United States from abroad, even if bought in a duty-free shop. Some items, such as ivory, tortoise-shell products, and certain foods and plants are prohibited in the United States. Visit

the U.S. Department of Agriculture website for more information. Some foods, merchandise and total currency of \$10,000 or more can be brought to the United States but must be declared on a U.S. CBP Customs form. Failure to do so can result in stiff financial penalties and loss of your possessions.

7 Schedule your agriculture inspection. Beginning Nov. 30, travelers can use the CBP One mobile app to provide advanced notification if they require inspection of agriculture and biological products upon arrival at an airport in the United States. Click here for more information. Categories for declaration will include:

■ Biological materials that may require permits issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

■ Pets, specifically birds and dogs, accompanying travelers in various capacities that carry the potential of introducing foreign animal diseases to the U.S. or other public health concerns

■ Cleaning and disinfection of shoes

■ Hunting trophies

8 Avoid counterfeits. Be cautious when buying from street vendors or other illegitimate shops while on vacation. These items often support criminal activity, violate intellectual property rights, and can be unsafe for consumers. More information on intellectual property rights can be found here. Note that CBP officers can inspect you and your belongings without a warrant.

9 Consider duty exemptions. Items brought abroad for personal use or as gifts are eligible for duty exemptions. If you are bringing them back for resale, they are not eligible for duty exemption. More information on duty exemptions can be found here.

10 Consider your medications. Be aware of traveling with medications. Many foreign-made medications are not approved for United States use and are not permitted in the country. When traveling abroad, bring only the medication you will need, and make sure it is in the original container.

For more information on holiday or other future travel plans, continue to monitor the CBP website, <https://www.cbp.gov/>. (PR)

Kensington Staycation is back with more amenities

Kensington Hotel Saipan will once again be offering a staycation package for the CNMI community, called "Back with More," with even more amenities coupled with outstanding service.

This includes daily operation of ocean-view rooms, the main pool, Infinity Pool, indoor playground Kenny Play Deck, OHAS café, restaurant outlets including Meisho Japanese buffet and Loria's Sunday Irresistible Brunch.

CNMI residents can avail of this local staycation package "Back with More" starting this Saturday. The price remains at \$199/night for one ocean-view room with more value: pool pass for two days including evening time, and more: sailing, kayaking, and snorkeling. You will receive a free upgrade to Premier Deluxe Room on high floors if you stay for two nights or more in a row.

Kensington Hotel Saipan is also bringing new excitement with its Healing Moment and Infinity Moment. For any Premier Deluxe Room stay, guests can enjoy complimentary drinks with live band (available through Thursday – Sunday) at OHAS or Infinity Pool.

Restaurants outlets that

offer premium fine international cuisines are available every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Meisho Restaurant, the local-favorite authentic Japanese restaurant, will be opened to serve the community from Dec. 3 every Friday and Saturday. Meisho Restaurant continues to evoke a most exclusive fine dining ambiance and is one of the most sought-after tables on the island where you can quench your craving for great Japanese food.

Irresistible Sunday Brunch will be back starting Dec. 5 at Loria, bringing the fine-dining experience to families in the community.

To ensure the safety of guests, we have been and will continue to be strictly adhering to the guideline of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., thoroughly practicing preventive measures at the all level of hotel operation. Kensington Hotel Saipan has obtained the Safe Travel Stamp, certified by the World Travel and Tourism Committee and Marianas Visitors Authority.

For reservations and inquiries, call 322-3311 or email reservations@kensington-saipan.com. (PR)

BankGuam Holding declares dividends

BankGuam Holding Company announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 4.97% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative

Preferred Stock, Series A, at its regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021. The dividends will be paid on Dec. 31, 2021, to shareholders of record as of Dec. 15, 2021. For additional information, visit <https://www.bankofguam.com> under Investor Relations. (PR)



HAPPY 41st ANNIVERSARY

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from the staff and management of

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

New variant cause for concern, not panic, Biden tells US

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden called the new coronavirus variant omicron a cause for concern but “not a cause for panic” Monday and said he was not considering any widespread U.S. lockdown. He urged

Americans anew to get fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and return to face masks indoors in public settings to slow any spread.

Speaking Monday at the White House, Biden said it was inevitable that the new

variant would reach the U.S., but he also said the country has the tools necessary to protect Americans—particularly the approved vaccines and booster shots.

When omicron arrives, and it will, Biden said, America

will “face this new threat just as we’ve faced those that have come before it.”

He appealed to the roughly 80 million unvaccinated Americans aged 5 and up to get their shots, and for the rest of the country to

seek out booster shots six months after their second dose. He also encouraged everyone to get back to wearing face masks in all indoor public settings—a pandemic precaution that has fallen out of use across much of the country.

Separately, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention broadened its recommendation for COVID-19 booster shots to include all adults because of the new

variant. The agency had previously approved boosters for all adults, but only recommended them for those 50 years and older or living in long-term care settings.

“Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial J&J vaccine,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement.

Biden vaccine rule for health workers blocked in 10 states

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—A federal judge on Monday blocked President Joe Biden’s administration from enforcing a coronavirus vaccine mandate on thousands of health care workers in 10 states that had brought the first legal challenge against the requirement.

The court order said that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid had no clear authority from Congress to

enact the vaccine mandate for providers participating in the two government health care programs for the elderly, disabled and poor.

The preliminary injunction by St. Louis-based U.S. District Judge Matthew Schelp applies to a coalition of suing states that includes Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. All

those states have either a Republican attorney general or governor. Similar lawsuits also are pending in other states.

The federal rule requires COVID-19 vaccinations for more than 17 million workers nationwide in about 76,000 health care facilities and home health care providers that get funding from the government health programs. Workers are to receive their first dose by Dec. 6 and their

second shot by Jan. 4.

The court order against the health care vaccine mandate comes after Biden’s administration suffered a similar setback for a broader policy. A federal court previously placed a hold on a separate rule requiring businesses with more than 100 employees to ensure their workers get vaccinated or else wear masks and get tested weekly for the coronavirus.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii girl’s adoptive parents plead not guilty to murder

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii couple accused of killing their 6-year-old adoptive daughter a month before reporting her missing pleaded not guilty to murder Monday. The body of Isabella Kalua, known by some by her birth name of Ariel, has not been found. A grand jury indicted Isaac and Lehua Kalua on murder and other charges. They appeared via video from jail for a brief court hearing Monday. Their court-appointed attorneys entered not guilty pleas for them.

A judge set trial for January. According to court documents, the girl’s older biological sister, also adopted by the Kaluas, told a detective she saw Isabella in a dog cage, with duct tape on her nose and mouth and not breathing.

New Twitter CEO steps from behind the scenes to high profile

Newly named Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal has emerged from behind the scenes to take over one of Silicon Valley’s highest-profile and politically volatile jobs. But his prior lack of name recognition coupled with a solid technical background appears to be what some big company backers were looking for to lead Twitter out of its current morass. A 37-year-old immigrant from India, Agrawal comes from outside the ranks of celebrity CEOs, which include the man he’s replacing, Jack Dorsey, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg, and Elon Musk of SpaceX and Tesla. Having served as Twitter’s chief technology officer for the last four years, Agrawal’s appointment was seen by Wall Street as a choice of someone who will focus on ushering Twitter into what’s widely seen as the internet’s next era—the metaverse. (PR)

Chris Cuomo’s off-air role: Brother Andrew’s

strategist

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN anchor Chris Cuomo had a bigger role than previously known in helping defend his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, from sexual harassment allegations that forced him out of office, newly released transcripts and text messages show. The TV journalist offered to reach out to “sources,” including other reporters, to find out whether more women were going to come forward and relayed what he was hearing to his brother’s advisers, according to the materials made public Monday. He also sparred with the former governor’s aides over strategy, urging an apologetic tone and critiquing an early statement that he saw as downplaying the allegations. He accused a top aide of hiding information from his brother. At the same time, Chris Cuomo told investigators he spoke regularly with his brother, coaching him on his response and admonishing him for “bad judgment.”

Sheriff: Hunter accidentally kills his 11-year-old daughter

HALLSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A hunter accidentally shot and killed his 11-year-old daughter while they were hunting near their East Texas hometown, investigators said Monday. In a statement, the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office in Marshall, Texas, said it received multiple reports shortly after 5 p.m. Saturday of a hunting accident just east of Hallsville, Texas. Callers said a Hallsville man accidentally shot his daughter Daisy Grace Lynn George with a high-powered rifle while hunting. At a Monday news conference, Sheriff B.J. Fletcher said the pair had returned to the father’s truck where he tried to clear the hammer of his rifle. He had believed the firearm was no longer loaded when he dropped the hammer, but a round was still chambered, the sheriff said.



HONORING FRONT-LINERS

The State Dining Room of the White House is decorated for the holiday season during a press preview of the White House holiday decorations, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, in Washington, D.C. Holiday decorations unveiled Monday for Joe and Jill Biden’s first White House Christmas honor frontline workers who persevered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nurses, doctors, teachers, grocery store workers and others are recognized in this year’s gigantic Gingerbread White House, which was made into a 350-pound (158.76 kilograms) gingerbread village with the addition of a school and police, fire and gas stations as well as a hospital, a post office, a grocery store and a warehouse to honor workers who stayed on the job.

AP

Father held after 4 California children, grandmother slain

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP)—Four children, including an infant, and their grandmother were found shot to death in a Southern California home and the children’s father was arrested on suspicion of killing them, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said.

The victims were found Sunday night in a home in the city of Lancaster in the high desert Antelope Valley north of Los Angeles.

The children’s mother dis-

covered the bodies and called 911. Lt. Brandon Dean told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Three houses away, Grace Beltran and her son Gerard were awakened by first responders’ flashing lights. Grace Beltran said a woman was running back and forth in their front yard, screaming, “My babies are gone! They’re all dead!”

Within a few minutes of the mother arriving home, the children’s father, Germarcus

David, 29, turned himself in to deputies at the Lancaster sheriff’s station, Dean said.

David was arrested after being interviewed by investigators and was held in lieu of \$2 million bail.

It was not immediately known if David had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. He was expected to make an initial appearance at the Antelope Valley Courthouse on Tuesday.

The grandmother, a girl and three boys suffered gun-

shot wounds to the upper torso and paramedics pronounced all of the victims dead at the scene. Authorities did not identify them but Waki Jones, who worked with the family through his Lancaster daycare service, told the Los Angeles Times that the two eldest children were Amaya, 12, and Demarcus, 9.

“Amaya was a sweet girl, and every morning, the mom would tell her, ‘Say good morning to coach,’” Jones said, meaning himself.

Asia

Myanmar court puts off verdict for ousted leader

BANGKOK (AP)—A court in Myanmar postponed its verdict on Tuesday in the trial of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to allow testimony from an additional witness.

The court agreed with a defense motion that it allow a doctor who had previously been unable to come to court to add his testimony, a legal official said.

The verdict would be the first for the 76-year-old Nobel laureate since the army seized power on Feb. 1, arresting her and blocking her National League for Democracy party from starting a second term in office.

She also faces trials on a series of other charges, including corruption, that could send her to prison for dozens of years if convicted.

The court was to deliver a verdict on Tuesday on charges of incitement and violating coronavirus restrictions.

The judge adjourned the proceedings until Dec. 6, when the new witness, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, is scheduled to testify, said the legal official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the government has restricted the release of information about the trial. It was unclear when a verdict will be issued.

The cases are widely seen as contrived to discredit Suu Kyi and keep her from running in the next election. The constitution bars anyone sentenced to prison from holding high office or becoming a lawmaker.

Her party won a landslide victory in last November's general election. The army, whose allied party lost many seats, claimed there was massive voting fraud, but independent election observers did not detect any major irregularities.

Suu Kyi remains widely popular and a symbol of the struggle against military rule. The army's takeover was met by nationwide nonviolent demonstrations which security forces quashed with deadly force, killing nearly 1,300 civilians, according to a tally by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.



Suu Kyi

With severe restrictions on nonviolent protest, armed resistance has grown in the cities and the countryside to the point where U.N. experts have warned the country is sliding into civil war.

Suu Kyi, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent struggle for democracy, has not been seen in public since being taken into custody on the day of the military's takeover. She has appeared in court at several of her trials, which are closed to the media and spectators.

In October, Suu Kyi's lawyers, who had been the sole source of information on the legal proceedings, were served with gag orders forbidding them from releasing information.

Baltic lawmakers meet Taiwan's Tsai

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Lawmakers from all three Baltic states met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday in a sign of further cooperation between European Union nations and Taiwan.

It is the first joint visit to Taiwan by members of parliament from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Tsai said.

She welcomed the lawmakers, who are attending the 2021 Open Parliament Forum, hosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

China claims Taiwan is its own territory and rejects any attempts by the self-ruled island to participate in international forums or establish diplomatic relations with other countries that would give it international recognition.

Tsai noted the values and experiences that Taiwan has in common with the three countries.

"Taiwan and the Baltic nations share similar experiences of breaking free of authoritarian rule and fighting for freedom. The democracy we enjoy today was hard earned," Tsai said. "This is something we all understand most profoundly."

Matas Maldeikis, head of the Lithuanian delegation, said he hopes to see even stronger ties with Taiwan.

"We are here to express our solidarity with you. We hope the soon-to-be-open Lithuanian trade office in Taiwan will help to expand the partnership between Taiwan and Lithuania and contribute to a closer relationship with Taiwan and the whole European bloc," he said.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the visit by the Baltic lawmakers on Monday, with spokesman Wang Wenbin issuing a warning.

"We urge the parties concerned to be cautious with their words and acts and to stop sending wrong signals to the Taiwan independence force," the spokesman said.

Earlier in November, Taiwan opened a de facto embassy in Lithuania under the name of Taiwanese Representative Office. Lithuania also plans to open a representative office in Taiwan.

In response, China reduced its level of diplomatic relations with Lithuania to below ambassador level and also recalled its ambassador. Earlier, China expelled the Lithuanian ambassador from Beijing.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which is held every three years, is being hosted by Senegal. It runs through Tuesday.

China to donate 600 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Africa

BEIJING (AP)—China has pledged to donate 600 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccines to Africa as the world grapples with the unequal distribution of the shots between rich and poor countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping made the promise Monday in a video speech to the opening ceremony of a China-Africa forum on economic cooperation.



Jinping

He said China will supply 1 billion doses in all. The other 400 million are to come through other routes such as production by Chinese companies in Africa.

"We need to put people and their lives first, be guided by science, support waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, and truly ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in Africa to bridge the immunization gap," he said.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which is held every three years, is being hosted by Senegal. It runs through Tuesday.

Learning more about the omicron variant is important as nations around the world sought Monday to keep the new variant at bay with travel bans and further restrictions, even as it remains unclear what the variant means for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan announced it would suspend entry for all foreign visitors, while new cases of the variant identified days ago by researchers in southern Africa appeared as far away as Hong Kong, Australia and Portugal. Portuguese authorities were investigating whether some infections there could be among the first reported cases of local transmission of the variant outside of southern Africa.

South Africa has seen its seven-day average of new cases over the past two weeks surge from about 200 per day to more than 2,000.

Omicron appears to be more transmissible than previous variants and the surge in South Africa could bring the daily number of new cases to 10,000 by the end of the week, infectious diseases specialist Salim Abdool Karim, told the briefing.

"Our biggest challenge will be to stop super-spreading events, particularly indoors," he said, suggesting that it might be necessary to restrict indoor gatherings to those who are vaccinated.

The hotspot for the new surge is Gauteng's Tshwane metropolitan area, incorporating the capital, Pretoria. The "vast majority" of those hospitalized there have been unvaccinated people, said Waasila Jassat of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

"Of recent hospitalizations 87% have been unvaccinated, 13% have been vaccinated," Jassat said of the 455 hospital admissions in the Tshwane area in the past two weeks.

Vaccination appears to have also helped people avoid infection, she said.

Of South Africa's 60 million people, 16.5 million are vaccinated and the number of fully vaccinated who are testing positive is very small, said Nicholas Crisp, the acting director general of the department of health. "It is a very small number of those people who tested positive. It's minute in comparison to unvaccinated people."

To combat the surge of COVID-19 cases attributed to the omicron variant, South Africa is urging vaccinations and is weighing making vaccines mandatory to enter indoor areas, the minister of health said Monday.

The government is not planning to impose centralized vaccine mandates, but will support businesses and organizations that seek proof of vaccination to enter indoor areas, Minister of Health Joe Phaahla told reporters.

The government is considering requiring vaccines for health workers, including those who work at state hospitals, he said.

"We are looking at concrete proposals on how to deal with vaccine mandates in workplaces and health care workplaces," Phaahla said.

A few African countries, including Angola, Egypt, Mauritius and Rwanda, have joined the slew of nations that have placed travel restrictions on South Africa and other countries in southern Africa.

World

'Many South Africans ill in surge have mild symptoms'



AP
A man receives a dose of a vaccine at a COVID-19 vaccine centre, in Soweto, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021.

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa's rapid increase in COVID-19 cases attributed to the new omicron variant is resulting in mostly mild symptoms, doctors say.

"We've seen a sharp increase in cases for the past 10 days. So far they have mostly been very mild cases, with patients having flu-like symptoms: dry coughs, fever, night sweats, a lot of body pains," said Dr. Unben Pillay, a general practitioner in Gauteng province where 81% of the new cases have been reported.

"Most of these patients have been treated at home," Pillay told an online press briefing Monday. "Vaccinated people tend to do much better. We have not seen a vast increase in hospitalizations, but this is still early days. Hospitalizations often come several days after a rise in confirmed cases."

Most of the new cases in South Africa have been among people in their 20s and 30s, and doctors note that age group generally has milder symptoms of COVID-19 in any case. They warn that older people infected by the new variant could have more severe symptoms.

Learning more about the omicron variant is important as nations around the world sought Monday to keep the new variant at bay with travel bans and further restrictions, even as it remains unclear what the variant means for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan announced it would

suspend entry for all foreign visitors, while new cases of the variant identified days ago by researchers in southern Africa appeared as far away as Hong Kong, Australia and Portugal. Portuguese authorities were investigating whether some infections there could be among the first reported cases of local transmission of the variant outside of southern Africa.

South Africa has seen its seven-day average of new cases over the past two weeks surge from about 200 per day to more than 2,000.

Omicron appears to be more transmissible than previous variants and the surge in South Africa could bring the daily number of new cases to 10,000 by the end of the week, infectious diseases specialist Salim Abdool Karim, told the briefing.

"Our biggest challenge will be to stop super-spreading events, particularly indoors," he said, suggesting that it might be necessary to restrict indoor gatherings to those who are vaccinated.

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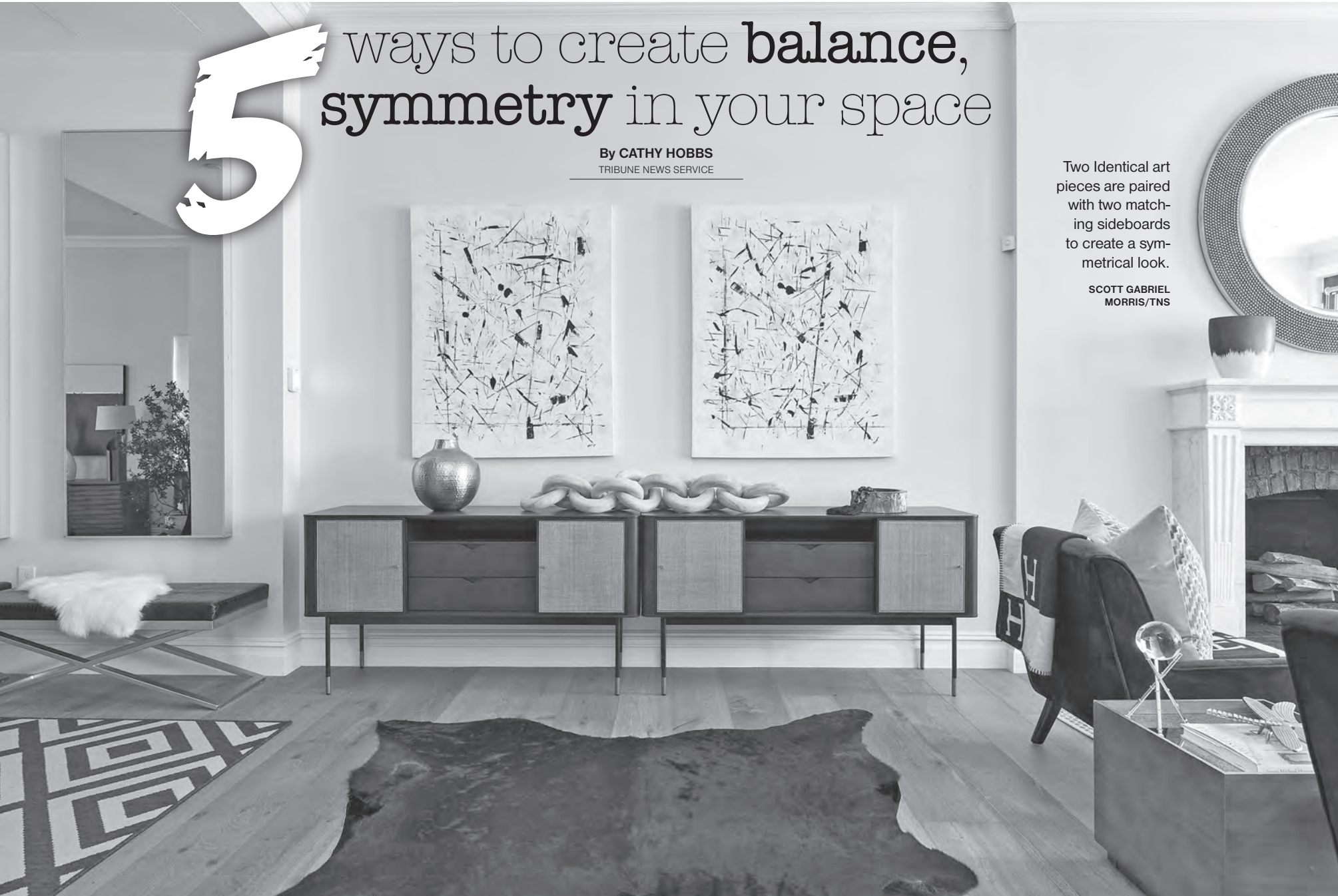
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Good Housekeeping



5 ways to create balance, symmetry in your space

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Two identical art pieces are paired with two matching sideboards to create a symmetrical look.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Ever wonder why some spaces feel off, while others have a sense of harmony? One key reason may relate to principles of balance and symmetry within the space. Symmetry allows for a harmonious feel through the use of identical elements, while balance can be created through dissimilar elements that blend well together.

Looking for ways to create a sense of balance and symmetry? Here are some top tips.

- 1 Use elements that are oversized or large in scale to help ground a room.
- 2 Select a focal point in a room to use as an opportunity to create a sense of balance and symmetry.
- 3 Use identical selections such as artwork and case goods to help create harmony.
- 4 Create a sense of balance through elements that may be of different height and weight but blend well together.
- 5 Beyond use of balance and symmetry in larger spaces, use balance and symmetry in small ways such as through the use of vignettes.

Reflecting on mirrors

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Mirrors come in different shapes and sizes and can be used in a myriad of ways. In some instances they can create a magical sense of openness while helping reflect light. They can even act as windows in spaces that don't get much natural light. Beyond the single mirror, a common designer trick is to use a menagerie of mirrors.

Looking for tips for using mirrors? Here are some creative tips on how to use mirrors in unexpected ways.

- DO'S**
1. Do use mirrors in pairings or groupings.
 2. Do use mirrors that have flush or thin borders in modern, inspired spaces.
 3. Do use mirrors in a grid formation in spaces in which you wish to have mirrors act as windows.
 4. Do use mirrors to reflect and bounce color and light.
 5. Do use mirrors in spaces where wall hanging may be difficult. Leaning and floor mirrors can still have

- an impact.
- DON'TS**
1. Don't be afraid to hang mirrors either horizontally or vertically. Both can impact a space.
 2. Don't use mirrors that are too small. Mirrors can be used to help ground a space.
 3. Don't overlook an opportunity to use mirrors instead of artwork.
 4. Don't forget to be aware of what is being reflected in mirrors. Proper placement is key.
 5. Don't ignore the opportunity to use mirrors as an opportunity to bring in color through the selection of frames and finishes.



Mirrors above a long sideboard help reflect decorative accessories in a living space.
SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

Life & Style

Prosecutors to begin case against Jussie Smollett in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Testimony is set to begin Tuesday in the trial of ex-“Empire” actor Jussie Smollett, who prosecutors say staged a homophobic and racist attack in Chicago but whose defense attorney says is “a real victim” of a “real crime.”

Special prosecutor Dan Webb told jurors during opening statements late Monday that Smollett recruited two brothers—who worked with him on the TV show—to help him carry out a fake attack in January 2019 because he believed the television studio didn’t take hate mail he had received seriously.

Smollett then reported the alleged attack to Chicago police, who classified it as a hate crime and spent 3,000 staff hours on the investigation, Webb said. The actor told police he was attacked by supporters of then-President Donald Trump—igniting political divisions around the country.

“When he reported the fake hate crime that was a real crime,” Webb said.

Defense attorney Neny Uche said the two brothers attacked Smollett because they didn’t like him and that a \$3,500 check the actor paid the men was for training so he could prepare for an upcoming music video. Uche also suggested a third attacker was involved and told jurors there is not a “shred” of physical and forensic evidence linking Smollett to the crime prosecutors allege.



Smollett

Black Eyed Peas frontman defies Israel boycott calls

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Black Eyed Peas’ will.i.am said Monday that politics don’t dictate his actions, with pressure from pro-Palestinian activists unable to deter him from performing in Israel and maintaining ties to the country’s high-tech scene.

A Palestinian-led movement has for years urged artists to boycott Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians. Major performers including Lorde and Lana Del Rey have canceled appearances under pressure while other stars including Madonna and Bob Dylan have defied it. The movement is known as BDS for its calls for

boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel.

The Grammy-winning group was performing in Jerusalem on Monday. Speaking to The Associated Press ahead of the concert, which was taking place on the U.N.’s international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, will.i.am said that personal and business ties keep him performing and investing in the country.

“I’m a musician and a tech enthusiast and people like our music,” he said, flanked by two of the group’s other members, Taboo and Apl.de.ap. “Do I turn my back on people that live here because of poli-

tics? No, that’s not the way we were built. So, you know, there’s beautiful people here as well as beautiful people in Palestine. And one day we want to go there too.”

The BDS movement says it is a nonviolent campaign against Israeli abuses against Palestinians—both Arab citizens of Israel and Palestinians who have lived under Israeli military occupation for more than half a century. Israel says the campaign is an effort to delegitimize and even destroy the country.

A statement on the BDS France website said the concert was “even more scandalous”

because it was taking place on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. It urged supporters to use the hashtag #WhereIsTheLoveforPalestinians—a nod to the group’s hit “Where is The Love”—to call for the group to cancel its performance.

Will.i.am pointed to his many personal connections to Israelis as a reason why he couldn’t boycott the country. He said his first girlfriend was Israeli and that at its beginnings in Los Angeles, the group met to make music in an Israeli friend’s bedroom and would enjoy Sabbath dinners at his home.

One of the group’s major hits, “I Gotta Feeling,” is laced with Hebrew and the Black Eyed Peas recently collaborated on a song with Israeli pop duo Static and Ben El.

Resisting the boycott calls over the years, will.i.am has deepened his ties to the country with his “core passion”—technology. His i.am+ tech firm acquired an Israeli start-up in 2016 and he has made repeated visits to the country to connect with its vibrant tech scene.

Will.i.am was in Israel to take part in an innovation conference held by Improvate, an Israeli organization that works to advance Israeli technology.

Actress Lindsay Lohan announces engagement in Instagram post

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Actress Lindsay Lohan has told her followers on Instagram that she’s engaged.

Lohan announced her engagement to boyfriend Bader Shammas and showed off a traditional oval diamond ring with a photo of the couple looking happy, locked in an embrace.

“My love. My life. My family. My future,” the post read.

The 35-year-old “Mean Girls” star has been based in the skyscraper-studded city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for several years. Hollywood celebrities seeking to escape the spotlight long have flocked to the flashy emirate, where there are no paparazzi to track the many VIPs who hole up in luxurious villas on the city’s palm-shaped artificial island.

Little is known about Shammas, a Dubai resident whose LinkedIn page says he’s the assistant vice president of inter-



Actress Lindsay Lohan appears at the opening night of the Lohan Nightclub in Athens, Greece, Oct. 16, 2016.

AP PHOTO/YORGOS KARAHALIS, FILE

national wealth management at Credit Suisse. Before joining the Swiss bank that serves some of the world’s richest people, he worked at BNP Paribas, one of the largest French banks, in Kuwait and Bahrain.

Since moving to Dubai, Lohan has kept a low profile and said that her partying

days are behind her.

She is slated to appear in a holiday romantic comedy released by Netflix, co-starring singer-songwriter Chord Overstreet. On Instagram, she also said she’s launching a new podcast to share “intimate conversations with thought leaders and friends.”

‘The Lost Daughter’ wins big at 31st Gotham Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Maggie Gyllenhaal’s Elena Ferrante adaptation “The Lost Daughter” won four Gotham Awards including best feature film at the 31st Gotham Awards, the annual New York independent film celebration that serves as a boozy kickoff to Oscar season.

Gyllenhaal won breakthrough director and best screenplay for her directorial debut, and star Olivia Colman shared the award for outstanding lead performance with Frankie Faison, “The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain,” a drama based on the 2011 police shooting in White Plains, New York. “The Lost Daughter,” a Netflix release, opens in theaters Dec. 17.

As one of the first stops in the long march to the Oscars, Monday evening’s Gothams was the first real attempt since

the pandemic began to summon all the season’s usual glitz and pomp. Stars including Kristen Stewart, Tessa Thompson and Dakota Johnson walked the red carpet. Inside the crowded banquet hall, attendees were required to provide proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test. Last year’s Gotham Awards (where “Nomadland” won the top award) was held virtually, with winners accepting awards by Zoom and an online poker platform deployed to digitally sit guests at tables.

This year, even with the recent discovery of the omicron variant spooking a film industry still trying to rebound from the pandemic, the Gothams got back to normal—even while tweaking traditions.

For the first time, the Gothams were presented without gendered acting categories.

Husband wants wife’s history to repeat itself

DEAR ABBY: I am a 44-year-old woman who has been married for three years. We all have a past. Unfortunately, I made mistakes in mine that I foolishly mentioned to my husband when he asked. He is someone who doesn’t let go of things easily.

I had a threesome in my early 20s, which I didn’t think was a big deal because I was young and experimenting with my sexuality. He’s now insisting on my having one with him. He thinks I cheated on him because when we met nine years ago, I was still friends with the people involved. I love him, but I feel like he wants to have his cake and eat it too. What should I do?

CORNERED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR CORNERED: If you’re against the idea, you should refuse. And if he persists with his wacky idea, the only “threesome” you should agree to would involve the two of you and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m an inmate at the women’s prison. My fiancé and I have been together for four years and have four little ones under the age of 4. They are with him.

I am getting mad at him for not writing often or sending photos. I realize he’s busy taking care of the babies, but am I being

selfish to think he should make time for me?

INMATE MOM IN NEVADA

DEAR MOM: I am glad you asked. I am also glad you recognize the fact that your fiancé has his hands full, working to support his family while taking care of the little ones. Because you have more time on your hands than he does, spend some of it writing to HIM and the CHILDREN. Tell them how much you love and miss them. Describe your daily activities and your hopes for them. If you do, it may make your bond with them stronger and bring them closer to you until you are released.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were married 10 years and in our 40s when he passed away three years ago. His wishes were that his ashes be split—half to me, and half to be buried with his mom in another state. I want to go there by myself and take care of it without notifying his family, so I won’t have to go through another “funeral.”

I haven’t spoken to his family members in that state since the funeral. I did speak with his sister—once—during the past year (we live in the same city), when I dropped off some of her family’s things that my husband had. Can I just go and take care of it? Must I inform the family? I would much prefer

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



just going to the cemetery and then coming right back home.
YOUNG WIDOW IN NEW YORK

DEAR YOUNG WIDOW: Contact the owners of the cemetery and ask this question. If your husband’s family owns the plot in which their mother is buried, you may need their permission to open her grave and add your husband’s ashes. If you do not wish to have “another funeral,” it is, of course, your prerogative, but I doubt you can slip this past them.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

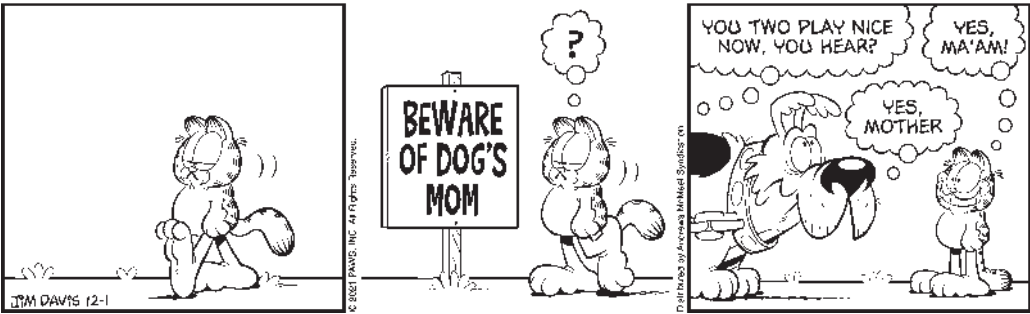
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



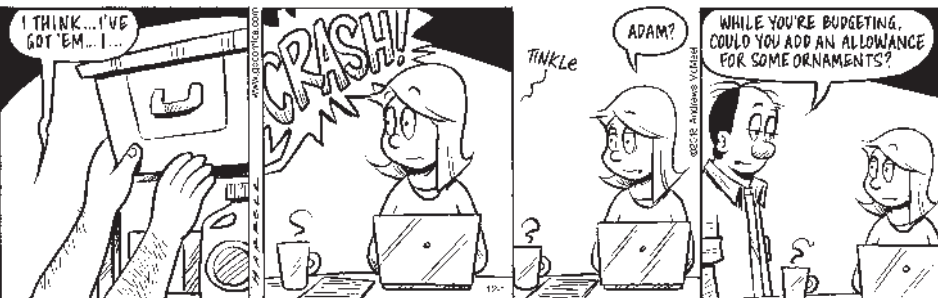
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



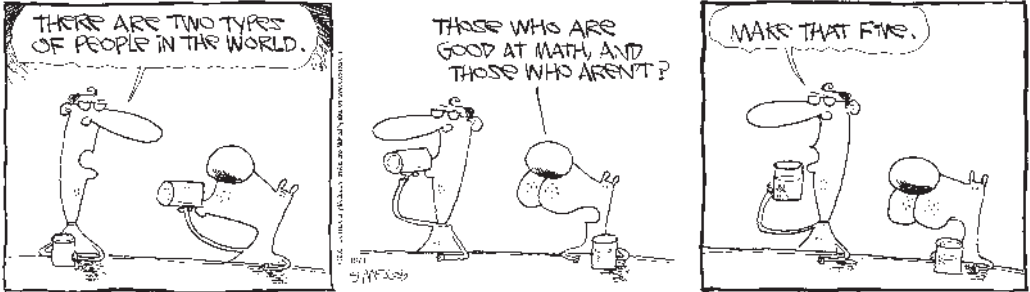
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

27 Trio after

1 Pot-bellied pet

4 "— Pinafore"

7 "I'm f-f-freezing!"

8 Bounds

10 Bakery lure

11 Take

13 HBO sitcom set in New York

16 Snoop

17 Author Joyce Carol —

18 Iowa college

19 Shoppe description

20 Gov. division

21 Musical endings

23 Taters

25 Blockhead

26 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"

DOWN

1 Stand-in

2 "— la Douce"

3 Yogurt topping

4 Anne of "Wag the Dog"

5 Spiked clubs

6 Detail, briefly

7 Rabbit's title

8 Coffee bar

9 Like mulled cider

10 Nile viper

12 Sporty car roofs

14 June honorees

15 Still

19 Praise in verse

20 Burrowed

21 Trig ratio

22 Choose

23 Missile shelter

24 Chopin, for one

25 Julius Erving's nickname

26 More learned

28 "Aida" composer

29 Killer whales

30 Celebrity chef Guy

31 Sicilian spouter

32 "Adios!"

34 Accomplishment

35 Ship's staff

Solution time: 23 mins.

I	K	E	A	K	I	T	C	O	M	A	
D	E	L	L	I	R	E	R	B	S		
O	P	A	L	L	I	N	G	U	I	N	E
I	I	N	D	F	N	S	A	F	T	N	A
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D	O	O	R	P	R	I	V				

Yesterday's answer 12-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vance Joy, 34; Sarah Silverman, 51; Nestor Carbonell, 54; Bette Midler, 76.

Happy Birthday: Align yourself with people who are eager to please and energetic enough to get things done. Those you associate with will help trigger your success by supporting your efforts. Rely on inside information to help you make the best decisions. Don't hold back when action is required. Set the pace, and follow through with your plans. Be direct and you'll prosper. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 28, 31, 35, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Judge others, and someone will judge you. Stick to what's important to you, and focus on money matters that can make or break your ability to do the things you enjoy. Don't let a change or decision someone makes alter your plans. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll crave change, but before moving forward with your plans, consider the outcome and what consequences could arise. You are better off taking baby steps to ensure you maintain your standard of living. Reveal only what's necessary. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Live up to your promises. Get your work out of the way before you move on to pleasurable pastimes. You'll be judged by what you do and how you present yourself. Learn from the experience, and you'll outsmart any rival you meet. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore your options, and take the road less traveled. Simplicity will have a more significant impact on how things unfold than trying to do too much all at once. Space things out, and pay attention to detail. Choose quality over quantity. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop and consider your options. Keep your emotions in check. Make decisions with a clear mind and purpose. Don't let the changes going on at home or work throw you off guard. Intelligence will outmatch anyone trying to take advantage of you. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Address financial matters. Emotional spending will not make you happy or solve your problems. Look for ways to expand your interests, skills and earning ability. Update your files and qualifications, and find out what's trending that can help you prosper. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A hasty judgment won't sit well with someone you love. Eliminate worry by keeping busy and being resourceful. Uncertainty in an investment is reason enough to take a pass. Look at the big picture and be thankful for what you have. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bide your time, and observe what's happening around you. Others' actions will speak volumes about who they are and what they want. Knowledge is your best resource when a decision is required. Protect what you cherish, and you'll have no regrets. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen, assess and go about your business. Keep an open mind, but don't put your money on the line without proper research. Investigate thoroughly, and you'll come up with a ge-

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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nius plan that will help you outmaneuver anyone who wants to compete. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your attributes to your advantage. A unique offer will grab the attention of someone who can make a difference in the way things turn out for you personally or professionally. Networking will be mandatory if you want to excel. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone will try to stifle your emotions. A money matter will leave you unsure regarding an investment you want to make. Slow down and rethink your strategy about what's necessary. Your intelligence is your strength. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take physical action. It's not what you say you'll do; it's what you achieve. All eyes will be watching, so make every move count. Trust in your ability to get things done without making a fuss. *****

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, intelligent and thorough. You are friendly and unpredictable.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		3	6	2	4	7	1	
4								6
2			9	5				8
8		4			2		1	
1			6		9		7	
6					4		5	
		5	8	3	1			2
								3
				7	1	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/01

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LEADERSHIP TITLES Solution: 9 letters

A R I N S T R U C T O R S R M
F S E S R E I D L O S P A R A
R O S Z N E E D E M I R P C N
E C R I I F H S N R E D L E A
R U A E S N E L E A D N R O G
U R C A P T A I N S M A T L E
T A R R I E A G H T C M O O R
C T D A E H R N R C D R O O R
E O E N N S E S T O D I T C T
L R K I N G I Q O H C A O C R
B O A R D R E V U N R H V O O
O Y T U P E D R D E T C I W O
S A J T O L I P P A E N C N P
S M R E C U D O R P E N E E E
R O S I V R E P U S P O T R R

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Adviser, Assistant, Board, Boss, Captain, Care, CEO, Chairman, Chief, Coach, Command, Curator, Deputy, Elder, Foreperson, Head, Heir, Instructor, Judge, King, Lead, Lecturer, Lord, Manager, Mayor, Mentor, Operator, Organizer, Owner, Pilot, Prime, Producer, Queen, Ranger, Rare, Ruler, Senior, Soldiers, Supervisor, Tops, Trainer, Trooper, Tsar, Vice

Yesterday's Answer: Audio
Purchase the NEW Treasury 46 and 47 in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 75 puzzles.)

Jokic returns, Nuggets beat Heat 120-111 to snap 6-game skid



MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat said 19,600 fans attended their home game Monday night.

At least two of them left happy.

Nikola Jokic—with his two brothers behind the Denver bench—returned and scored 24 points, Aaron Gordon added 20 and the Nuggets snapped their longest losing streak in nearly six years by beating the short-handed Heat 120-111 on Monday night.

“That’s behind us,” Jokic said. “We need to move on to the future. We won the game and that’s the most important thing.”

Bones Hyland returned from injury to score 19 and Will Barton added 14 for the Nuggets, who had dropped six straight. Jokic hadn’t played in the last four of those because of a wrist injury but finished with 15 rebounds and seven assists.

“I shot the lights out of the ball,” Hyland said after going 5 for 8 from 3-point range.

Denver shot 58% on the day that it was revealed Michael Porter Jr. will need back surgery. Porter has been limited to only nine games this season.

Bam Adebayo finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds for Miami, which was without its two leading scorers—Jimmy Butler was out with a bruised tailbone, and Tyler Herro missed the game with what the Heat called general body soreness. Adebayo had 15 of his points in the third quarter.

“Our defense is better than that,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “I think they played extremely well. And in those pivotal moments in the course of the game, it seemed like they made every shot, every play.”

Max Strus scored 19 points and Caleb Martin added 18 for the Heat, which got 17 points and 14 assists from Kyle Lowry.

It was the first meeting of the teams since the dustup between Jokic and Miami’s Markieff Morris on Nov. 8. Morris committed a hard take foul that the Nuggets felt was overzealous; Jokic responded with a shove into Morris’ back. Morris has now missed 11 games with what the Heat have described as a neck injury.

Jokic said he hasn’t talked to Morris since. Heat fans booed Jokic every time he touched the ball, and the reigning MVP didn’t seem to mind.

“I played in Serbia, brother,” Jokic said.

Jokic’s brothers—Strahinja and Nemanja—got into a Twitter jousting with Markieff Morris’ twin brother, Marcus Morris. The Jokic brothers, who have drawn attention for their reactions to certain plays in the past, were in Miami for



Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) drives against Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, in Miami. AP

Monday’s game, seated just behind the Denver bench.

“They’re coming down here because this is Miami and I know for a fact every year they’ve been able to come, non-COVID, they’ve been here,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “And that’s not to cause trouble. That’s just to support their brother, which they always do.”

There was no fight in this one. It was only basketball, and fairly one-sided for most of the night.

A 12-0 run by the Nuggets in the second quarter—with Miami missing 10 consecutive shots—put Denver up 50-35. The lead was 63-43 by halftime, the biggest deficit that the Heat faced at intermission so far this season.

The only time Denver’s lead dipped into single figures after halftime came when 0.9 seconds left, when Gabe Vincent made a 3-pointer on the game’s final shot.

Pelicans 123, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, Jonas Valanciūnas scored 29 of his career-high 39 points in a spectacular first half, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Los Angeles Clippers for the second time this month, 123-104 on Monday night.

New Orleans rolled to a 21-point lead in the first half with a phenomenal effort from Valanciūnas, the Lithuanian veteran in his first season with the Pelicans. The 6-foot-11 Valanciūnas hit seven 3-pointers without a miss in the first half to the increasing delight

of his teammates and even the 10-year veteran himself.

Valanciūnas, who surpassed his career high for 3s in the first half alone, had dropped 26 points and 13 rebounds on Los Angeles 10 days earlier in the Pelicans’ 94-81 win in New Orleans. He added 15 rebounds to his prolific scoring in the rematch.

Paul George scored 27 points and Reggie Jackson had 19 for the Clippers, who have lost three of four and six of nine after a seven-game winning streak.

Brandon Ingram scored 27 points in his former home arena and Herbert Jones added 16 for the Pelicans, who rebounded from their second-worst loss of the season at Utah last Saturday to finish their three-game road trip with two victories.

George closed the margin to eight midway through the fourth, but Ingram scored eight points in the quarter and led a 17-8 run to put it away for New Orleans.

The Pelicans have won three of four, doubling their season win total in the past six days after a 3-16 start without injured Zion Williamson. Their star forward has been cleared for a full return to basketball activities, further boosting New Orleans’ hopes of turning around its season.

76ers 101, Magic 96

In Philadelphia, Seth Curry scored 24 points, Tobias Harris had 17 and Philadelphia needed free throws in the final minute to beat Orlando.

The Magic (4-18) showed grit in a fiery second half and

rallied from 16 down to tie it 93-all on Mo Bamba’s dunk with 57 seconds left.

The Sixers just hung on from the line. Ty Maxey made two for the lead, Joel Embiid hit 3 of 4 and Maxey added two more to help the Sixers avoid an embarrassing defeat. Embiid scored 16 points on 4-for-16 shooting.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 27 points.

Timberwolves 100, Pacers 98

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 16 of his 32 points in the third quarter and Anthony Edwards added 21 as Minnesota rallied past Indiana.

The Timberwolves trailed by 12 early in the third before Towns led a comeback that sent them to their seventh win in eight games. Michael Beasley hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer for Minnesota with 51.5 seconds left in the fourth.

D’Angelo Russell had 21 points and a season-high 11 assists for the Timberwolves.

Domantas Sabonis had 16 points, a career-high 25 rebounds and 10 assists for Indiana. Malcolm Brogdon added 25 points but the Pacers lost for the third time in four games.

Bulls 133, Hornets 119

In Chicago, Lonzo Ball and the Chicago Bulls won the battle of the Ball brothers, riding a stellar performance by Nikola Vucevic to a victory over LaMelo Ball and the Charlotte Hornets.

Chicago shot a season-high 59.6% from the field and had

five players score in double figures. Vucevic had a season-best 30 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, and Zach LaVine, a game-time decision because of an illness, finished with 25.

With patriarch LaVar Ball watching and wearing a black hat that read “I Told You So,” Lonzo Ball improved to 2-1 in three NBA meetings with the youngest of his two brothers. He had 16 points and eight assists, and LaMelo Ball had 18 points and 13 assists.

Terry Rozier scored 31 points for the Hornets. Charlotte trimmed a 23-point deficit to four with 7:31 left, but Chicago responded with a 9-0 run.

Cavaliers 114, Mavericks 96

In Dallas, Jarrett Allen scored 28 points and Lauri Markkanen had 24, both season highs, as Cleveland dominated Dallas.

Allen also grabbed 14 rebounds and Darius Garland added 18 points for the Cavaliers in their most lopsided win of the season. Their largest lead was 31 midway through the fourth quarter, when Markkanen’s fifth 3-pointer put Cleveland ahead 104-73.

Luka Dončić posted his second triple-double of the season with 25 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Mavericks. Dončić made a season-high seven 3-pointers (7 of 11), while his teammates went 4 for 28 from behind the arc.

Dallas (10-9) has lost five of six. Kristaps Porziņģis left midway through the second half with a right ankle sprain.

Rockets 102, Thunder 89

In Houston, Christian Wood had 24 points and a career-high 21 rebounds as Houston won its third straight game by defeating Oklahoma City.

Kevin Porter Jr. contributed a triple-double of 11 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Garrison Mathews scored 19 for the Rockets.

Houston’s winning streak follows a 15-game skid, while the loss was the sixth straight for Oklahoma City.

Wood’s performance came after he scored a career-best 33 points to lead Houston past Charlotte on Saturday night.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 22 points.

Spurs 116, Wizards 99

In San Antonio, Derrick White scored 24 points, Dejounte Murray had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio beat Washington to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Murray also dished out eight assists for the Spurs, who had six players score in double figures. They last won back-to-back games (three straight) in a stretch in late April.

Jakob Poeltl had 14 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks.

Bradley Beal scored 18 for the Wizards, who completed a 2-2 road trip.

Jazz 129, Trail Blazers 107

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds, and the Utah Jazz beat the Portland Trail Blazers 129-107 Monday night.

Jordan Clarkson added 22 points for Utah, which used quick passes and spacing to make 19 3-pointers and shot 53 percent from the field a game after making a season-high 20 3s. The Jazz matched their season high with 46 made field goals.

Anfernee Simons scored a season-high 24 points and Jusuf Nurkić also had 24 as the Trail Blazers fell to 1-10 on the road this season.

Utah’s Royce O’Neale missed his second straight game with a sprained ankle, and Joe Ingles had 14 points, four 3-pointers and six assists in his place. Clarkson made six shots from beyond the arc.

Portland’s Norman Powell was out with a right thigh bruise. Simons had a sparkling offensive performance, but the Trail Blazers didn’t get much from their star Damian Lillard to counter Utah’s offensive prowess.

After making two of his first three shots, Lillard only made two more buckets on nine attempts. Lillard has gone 16 for 45 over his last three games.

Washington beats Wilson, Seahawks 17-15 for 3rd win in a row



LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Ron Rivera was left adrift without a kicker and felt like he had to go for it in every situation.

The final roll of the dice by “Riverboat Ron” on fourth and goal opened the door for some heroics by Russell Wilson, but Kendall Fuller’s interception on Seattle’s 2-point conversion attempt allowed Washington to hold on and beat the Seahawks 17-15 Monday night for the team’s third consecutive victory.

“It meant a lot just because of the way these guys fight,” said Rivera, who pointed at and encouraged fans while walking off the field. “In spite of everything that’s gone on during the game with the injuries, we were able to come out on top, so good for these guys.”

After Taylor Heinicke’s fourth-down pass to Logan Thomas at the goal line was ruled incomplete on video review, Wilson led the Seahawks on a 10-play, 96-yard touchdown drive in just over two minutes. He connected with Freddy Swain on a 32-yard TD pass with 15 seconds left, but his 2-point throw to Swain was picked off by Fuller, preventing Wilson from leading a memorable comeback on his 33rd birthday.

“You’ve seen Russell do that for the last 10 years, and you never count him out,” Heinicke said.



Washington Football Team cornerback Kendall Fuller (29) intercepts a pass in the end zone intended for Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Freddie Swain (18) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, in Landover, Md. Washington won 17-15. AP

He almost got another chance when it looked like Seattle (3-8) had recovered an onside kick. But the Seahawks were penalized for illegal formation on the first attempt and failed to recover the second.

“The last few minutes of the game shows that we have the right character of guys,” Wilson said. “That’s what’s special about this team just to believe that something great’s going to happen.”

The loss likely ended Seattle’s hopes for any longshot playoff bid.

Wilson was 20 of 31 for 247 yards and two TD passes, but he missed several throws and lost three consecutive games for the first time as the Seahawks’ starting quarterback.

“The film doesn’t lie, you know,” coach Pete Carroll said. “He missed some stuff.”

Washington (5-6) moved into the final NFC wild-card

spot with the win. “We got some momentum right now,” receiver Terry McLaurin said.

J.D. McKissic caught a touchdown pass from Heinicke, ran for another and accounted for 56 yards from scrimmage against the team he broke into the NFL with before being carted off with an undisclosed injury late in the game.

“He’s one of the most versatile guys in the league,” Rivera said of McKissic. “He’s a threat

on first, second and third down.”

Heinicke and Co. had to do everything in the second half without the possibility of a field goal after kicker Joey Slye injured a hamstring late in the second quarter on an extra point attempt that was blocked and returned for two points. Heinicke evaded a couple of potential sacks and outduelled Wilson in a matchup of mobile QBs, going 27 of 35 for 223 yards with the TD

throw to McKissic and an interception.

A departure from each team’s typical results in prime time, Washington won at home on Monday night for the third time in 20 tries since FedEx Field opened in 1997. Seattle, which entered with the NFL’s best winning percentage on Monday night, fell to 11-4 in these situations in Carroll’s 11 seasons as coach.

Carroll’s Seahawks have fallen out of playoff contention over the past three weeks. They were right in it against Washington when Rasheem Green blocked, recovered and returned the extra point attempt late in the first half to tie the score at 9, but the offense went cold after halftime.

Washington outrushed Seattle 152-34 and held a 41:40-18:20 edge in time of possession. The Seahawks were 4 of 12 on third down.

“It’s just such an obviously issue for us not converting,” Carroll said. “We didn’t run the ball well at all tonight, but there just so few plays that every single play counts so much in the end.”

Since the NFL allowed the defense to return a PAT for points in 2015, Green became the first player to block, recover and score on the same play, according to SportRadar. It was the first defensive conversion in the league since 2019 and the 11th over the past seven seasons, with seven coming on extra points.

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers took a flyer on Mike Hilton five years ago, and the undersized cornerback repaid their faith by becoming one of the most versatile defensive backs in the NFL, a relentless 5-foot-9 tornado who maximized every last ounce of his talent.

A talent that ultimately became too expensive to keep.

When Hilton hit the open market last spring, the Steelers — grappling with a one-time-only unexpected dip in the salary cap because of the COVID-19 pandemic — had no recourse when Cincinnati offered Hilton a four-year, \$24 million contract.

It was the same with guard Matt Feiler and left tackle Alejandro Villanueva, who both walked in free agency for \$7 million-a-year deals elsewhere for Los Angeles and Baltimore.

While the Bengals, Chargers and Ravens spent money to address roster shortcomings, the Steelers were forced by the economics of the NFL to make unenviable choices to get under the cap.

That included bringing back Ben Roethlisberger on a reduced salary, cutting

Steelers living out purgatory promised by salary-cap crunch

cornerback Steven Nelson and linebacker Vince Williams (who later returned at a smaller cap hit only to retire at the end of training camp), investing heavily in the draft and searching the waiver wire to fill in the holes.

It left them with a very narrow path to contention: hope the rookie-laden offense could take some of the pressure off the 39-year-old Roethlisberger to do it all and pray the defense picked up right where it left off in 2020 when it ranked first in sacks and turnovers and third in yards allowed.

For a month, it worked. Roethlisberger and the offense shook off a shaky start—thanks in large part to the rapid development of rookie stars Najee Harris and Pat Freiermuth—and the Steelers surged into contention with a four-game winning streak against teams of varying pedigree.

Heading into December, that progress looks like a mirage.

Injuries, particularly along the defensive line, have exposed an overall lack of quality depth up front on

both sides of the ball. And the sight of Hilton racing to the end zone for a 24-yard Pick-6 at the end of the first half of what became a 41-10 beatdown at the hands of Cincinnati on Sunday showcased the kind of energy and playmaking the Steelers (5-5-1) are sorely lacking.

“There’s a lot of football to be played, but if we do what we did out there today, we won’t win another game,” defensive lineman Cam Heyward said.

Not if they can’t be competitive along the line of scrimmage, something they weren’t against the Bengals. Cincinnati ran up 198 yards on the ground. It’s telling of how beat up Pittsburgh’s defensive line is that rookie fifth-round pick Isaiahh Loudermilk and not injured starters Stephon Tuitt and Tyson Alualu was the one futilely chasing Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow to the end zone in the first quarter.

Loudermilk was supposed to have a limited role this season if he had one at all. With Alualu out for the year and Tuitt still recovering from

knee surgery, Loudermilk found himself playing 27 snaps in a pivotal late-November road game against a division rival.

He was hardly the only Steeler with limited experience thrust into a position they might not have been ready for.

The list of players who saw the field for at least 10 defensive snaps on Sunday included defensive lineman Henry Mondeaux, linebackers Taco Charlton and Derrek Tuszka and cornerbacks Arthur Maulet, Ahkello Witherspoon and James Pierre, none of whom figured to be a significant part of the “division of labor” to borrow a pet phrase of coach Mike Tomlin when Pittsburgh opened camp back in July, if they were even on the roster at all.

Yet the Steelers had little choice to throw them into the mix because they had no money to go hunting for quality depth back in the spring.

Their best-case scenario heading into 2021 was to hope veterans such as Alualu could stay healthy, minimizing the exposure of backups

who were not ready for extended playing time.

Instead, the defense has been hit with injuries to high-profile players such as Alualu, Tuitt, star edge rusher T.J. Watt and defensive back Joe Haden. The subs — while playing hard, according to their teammates — have not been up to the challenge of being competitive against good teams.

“We can’t keep playing like this,” said Watt, who went onto the COVID-19 list on Monday, making his availability to face the Ravens next Sunday uncertain at best. “It’s absolutely embarrassing.”

And perhaps unfixable, at least in 2021.

WHAT’S WORKING

Not much. Even any minor sign of progress came at a cost. Freiermuth made a pretty touchdown reception in the fourth quarter of a blowout only to leave the game while being checked for a concussion.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Everything, though the defensive line is first among equals in that department with Bal-

timore and the NFL’s third-ranked rushing offense coming to Heinz Field.

STOCK UP

Kicker Chris Boswell remains perfect at Paul Brown Stadium, making all 24 of his field-goal attempts there in his career.

STOCK DOWN

The coaching staff keeps challenging inside linebacker Devin Bush, and he keeps failing to meet it.

INJURIES

Inside linebacker Robert Spillane is dealing with a knee problem. There’s hope Haden’s sprained foot will be ready in time to face the Ravens.

KEY NUMBER

0-7 — Pittsburgh’s record in its past seven games decided by more than one score, highlighting how small the team’s margin for error has become.

NEXT STEPS

Try to salvage their season by shoring up the defense in time to keep Baltimore star QB Lamar Jackson in check. Jackson is just 1-1 against the Steelers as a starter.

Woods says a return to the top not a ‘realistic expectation’

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Tiger Woods says he expects to play golf again, just not very often, and he doesn’t see himself reaching the top of the sport again because “I don’t think that’s a realistic expectation of me.”

He says he can see himself picking certain tournaments to play, but not a full-time schedule.

His extensive video inter-

view with Golf Digest, with whom he has a financial relationship, was published Monday ahead of his first press conference since his right leg was badly damaged in a Feb. 23 car crash in the Los Angeles suburbs.

Woods is the tournament host of the Hero World Challenge.

The 15-time major champion raised hopes of another comeback when Woods posted a three-second video hitting a short iron with the message, “Making progress.”

He didn’t make it sound as though a return was around the corner.

“I have so far to go,” he said. “I’m not even at the half-way point. I have so much more muscle development and nerve development that I have to do in my leg. At the same time, as you know, I’ve had five back operations. So I’m having to deal with that. So as the leg gets stronger, some-

times the back may act up.”

Woods was recovering from another back procedure at the start of the year when he ran his SUV over a median and it toppled down a steep hill on a winding, sweeping road in the Los Angeles suburbs on his way to a television shoot at a golf course.

Doctors said he shattered tibia and fibula bones in his right leg in multiple locations. Those were stabilized by a rod in the tibia. A combination of screws and pins were used to stabilize additional injuries in the ankle and foot.

He last played at the PNC Championship with his son, Charlie, and then had a fifth back procedure that kept him out the early part of the year before the accident.

Woods already had one remarkable comeback, winning the Masters in 2019 after fusion surgery, his fourth on his lower back. He won the Zozo



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the fourth hole during the final round of the PNC Championship golf tournament Dec. 20, 2020, in Orlando, Fla. AP

Championship in Japan later in the year for his 82nd career victory on the PGA Tour, tying Sam Snead for the all-time record.

“I don’t have to compete and play against the best players in the world to have a great life.

After my back fusion, I had to climb Mt. Everest one more time. I had to do it, and I did. This time around, I don’t think I’ll have the body to climb Mt. Everest, and that’s OK. I can still participate in the game of golf. I can still, if my leg gets

OK, I can still click off a tournament here or there.

“But as far as climbing the mountain again and getting all the way to the top, I don’t think that’s a realistic expectation of me.”

Woods is to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in March. The Masters is the first full week of April. Woods didn’t have a timetable, only that he wished the recovery was going faster than it was.

He said he could envision a career like Ben Hogan after his near-fatal car accident. Hogan played a limited schedule, though he still dominated the majors, including winning all three that he played in 1953.

“I think something that is realistic is playing the tour one day—never full-time ever again—but pick and choose, just like Mr. Hogan did. Pick and choose a few events a year and you play around that,” he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	14	6	.700	—	
New York	11	9	.550	3	
Boston	11	10	.524	3½	
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	3½	
Toronto	9	12	.429	5½	

Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	13	8	.619	—	
Washington	13	8	.619	—	
Charlotte	13	10	.565	1	
Atlanta	11	10	.524	2	
Orlando	4	18	.182	9½	

Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	14	8	.636	—	
Milwaukee	13	8	.619	½	
Cleveland	11	10	.524	2½	
Indiana	9	14	.391	5½	
Detroit	4	16	.200	9	

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	10	9	.526	—	
Memphis	10	10	.500	½	
San Antonio	6	13	.316	4	
New Orleans	6	17	.261	6	
Houston	4	16	.200	6½	

Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	14	7	.667	—	
Minnesota	11	10	.524	3	
Denver	10	10	.500	3½	
Portland	10	11	.476	4	
Oklahoma City	6	14	.300	7½	

Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	18	2	.900	—	
Phoenix	17	3	.850	1	
L.A. Clippers	11	10	.524	7½	
L.A. Lakers	11	11	.500	8	
Sacramento	8	13	.381	10½	

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182
Miami	5	7	0	.417	234	279
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	199	334

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	340	283
Houston	2	9	0	.182	164	292
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	173	283

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	263	240
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	309	226
Pittsburgh	5	5	1	.500	224	267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250
Denver	6	5	0	.545	228	196
L.A. Chargers	6	5	0	.545	273	293
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	259	295

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	326	250
Washington	5	6	0	.455	229	282
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	304	273
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	202	253

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	8	3	0	.727	347	253
Atlanta	5	6	0	.455	199	302
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	257	249
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	236	253

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	281	276
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	179	254
Detroit	0	10	1	.045	174	289

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	310	202
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	299	263
San Francisco	6	5	0	.545	280	248
Seattle	3	8	0	.273	209	226

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UOG to hold baseball tryouts and community baseball clinic

The University of Guam’s varsity baseball program, under its new head coach, Roke Alcantara Jr., is looking for athletes to play for the Tritons in the upcoming spring and fall seasons.

Current UOG students as well as prospective and incoming UOG students for both the Fañomñakan/Spring 2022 and



Fañomñakan/Fall 2022 semesters are invited to try out for the team this weekend. Tryouts will be held from 9am to noon this Saturday and Sunday at the George Washington High School baseball field in Mangilao. All athletes will need to show proof of vaccination.

Additionally, all aspiring collegiate baseball players ages 16 to 22 are invited to a free community-wide baseball clinic over the holiday break. The baseball clinic will run from 9am to noon on both Saturday, Dec. 18, and Sunday, Dec. 19, and from 4pm to 6pm each day from Monday, Dec. 20, to Thursday, Dec. 23. Par-

ticipants must show proof of vaccination.

“We’re looking for athletes of all skill levels who have a passion for the sport and want to be part of a team and part of a new chapter in Triton Athletics history,” Alcantara said. “Let’s come together and bring back the excitement of watching UOG baseball like

the good old days.”

The Tritons Baseball team plans to play in the Guam Major League this spring. It will be the university’s first baseball season in more than 20 years.

For more information, please contact Tritons Baseball Head Coach Roke Alcantara Jr. at (671) 747-4579 or rokester57@gmail.com. (PR)

CELIS

From Page 24

“It feels really good to be back again racing and training for the 2022 season points series. I want to thank my Trench Tech team and of course my family for my victory in the Veterans Class,” he said.

Celis said since the end of the 2021 MRA point race, he’s

been sharpening his motocross skills at the Marpi facility every weekend.

“I’ve been training with teammates Cuki and Charles Cepeda of course every Saturday and Sunday. There is no rest for the weary,” he said, while adding that he continues his regular running routine at the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Pathway along Middle Road.

TEAM

From Page 24

biting their dust to grab the first finals slot. Reyes led all scorers with 29 points, while Sablan added 26 markers of his own. Kim King added 14 points with Sanchez and Paka Sablan chipping in 12 points apiece. Dennis Borja and Louise Maligson paced Team CNMI in the loss with 22 and 20 markers, respectively.

The other semifinal match between Rampage and Devil Dog Warriors was much more intense and physical than the first game. There was a lot of pushing, trash talking, elbowing, and slapping. As a result technical calls due to harassing the two referees were called. Thankfully, head referee Dawn Sarmiento eventually succeeded in maintaining control of both teams.

Wesley Walker got out of the

gates firing, scoring 14 points in the first quarter as Rampage held a 26-11 lead. He shot 7 more points in the second and with help from big man Toram Borja gave their team a 42-25 advantage at lemon time.

Jake Montgomery and Damon Kada spearheaded a Devil Dog Warriors rally at the start of the third, as they combined for 15 points to help trim their deficit to 54-44 entering the playoff period. Their rally, however, fell

short in the final 10 minutes of the contest as Walker and Leo Pascua hit crucial baskets to salt away the win for Rampage.

First Game

Team Kio 97 – Reyes 29, D. Sablan 26, King 14, P. Sablan 12, Sanchez 12, Repeki 2, Manglona 2.

Team CNMI 82 – D. Borja 22, Maligson 20, A. Borja 14, Santos 13, E. Borja 9, Manan-sala 2.

in each of the two heats. Byron Castro and Tristan Sablan finished No. 2 and No. 3 with 42 points (20-22) and 40 points (22-18), respectively. Corry Pangelinan was the only other rider in the division and wound up with 38 points (18-20).

The rest of the results of MRA’s Turkey Cross Race will be published in tomorrow’s edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

Scoring by quarters: 22-29, 55-48, 75-64, 97-82.

Second Game

Rampage 65 – Walker 25, Pascua 13, Cepeda 8, Jay. Epi-ty 7, Manglona 6, T. Borja 4, R. Borja 2.

Devil Dog Warriors 58 – Montgomery 23, Kada 14, Kubinski 11, James 5, Beal 3, Navarro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-11, 42-25, 54-44, 65-58.

TRAC

From Page 24

races with the same swim, bike, and run splits elsewhere and submitting official results.

TRAC held its first Mini Games tryout last Aug. 21 at the same venue with Lily Muldoon and Christian Villacrusis topping the event.

Muldoon, a 42-year-old doctor at the Commonwealth

Health Center, tackled the course in 1:14.49 to win the women’s division, while Villacrusis, who is now back at George Fox University in Oregon for college, topped the men’s category in 1:18.33.

Saipan International School’s Kaithlyn Chavez came in second to Muldoon in the women’s category after the multi-sport wunderkind crossed the finish line in 1:22.48. Tania Tan, a

member of the Fordham University track and field team, rounded out the women’s Top 3 with a time of 1:23.16.

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member Isaiah Aleksenko was second in the men’s division with a time of 1:22.46 but what’s impressive was the 15-year-old Marianas High School student did so with an ill-fitting road bike and just socks to negotiate the 5-km

stretch of asphalt and concrete in the run split.

MHS teacher and former Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield finished third among men with a time of 1:31.17. A total of nine women and eight men took part in the tryouts.

The Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 will be held from June 17 to 25, 2022. So far, a total of 53 athletes have



**Jokic returns,
Nuggets beat
Heat 120-
111 to snap
6-game skid**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Woods says
a return to
the top not
a 'realistic
expectation'**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Celis nips Cuki to win Veterans class

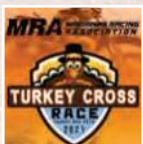


By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dave Celis barely beat training mate Cuki Alvarez to win the Veterans Class of Marianas Racing Association's Turkey Cross Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track in Marpi.

Dave Celis takes a glance back at Cuki Alvarez in their Veterans Class race in the Marianas Racing Association's Turkey Cross Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track in Marpi.

LAO ZHANG



The 43-year-old Chalan Kanoa resident and Alvarez both finished with identical 47 points.

Celis, however, topped Alvarez in the second heat, 25-22, to take the

division after the latter got one leg up on the former after winning the first heat, 25-22. As per MRA rules, the winner of the second heat gets the victory in case of ties.

As always, Celis attributed his victory in the Veterans Class to his tried-

and-tested riding technique of just riding steady and without that much risk.

Aboard his trusty 2021 Yamaha YZ250F, Celis was overjoyed to return to competition at the Cowtown Race Track.

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Kaithlyn Chavez, left, and Isaiah Aleksenko tackle the 5-kilometer run split from Paupau Beach to the road leading to Far East Broadcasting Co. of last Aug. 21's Mini Games tryout.

MARK RABAGO

TRAC to stage 2nd Mini Games tryouts Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will hold its second tryout for the CNMI National Triathlon Team for next year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games this coming Saturday, Dec. 4, in Marpi.

The 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike, and 5-km

run course will start with the swim split at Paupau Beach. It will be followed by the road bike segment that begins from Paupau Beach before proceeding south to Seafix Inc. for the turnaround and then north onto Banzai Cliff before returning to the finish line at Paupau Beach. The 3.1-mile run will be from Paupau Beach to the road leading to Far East Broadcasting Co. and back to the finish line.

The tryout, which was

originally set last Nov. 28 but was cancelled due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the community, will have body markings at 6am.

Requirements for athletes trying out for the CNMI National Triathlon Team is five years of continuous or cumulative residency in the Northern Marianas and must be a U.S. citizen. TRAC added that athletes may participate by joining sanctioned

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Team Kio vs Rampage in Tinian caging finals

By MARK RABAGO
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Team Kio continued its undefeated march to the championship of the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League after advancing to the finals with a 97-82 victory over Team CNMI Monday night at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Its opponent will be Rampage after they also punched their championship ticket with a 65-58 victory over Devil Dog Warriors later in the evening.

The winner-take-all finals between Team Kio and Rampage will be played this Friday starting at 8pm. It will be preceded by the battle for third between Team CNMI and Devil Dog Warriors beginning at 6pm.

In its win against Team CNMI in the first game, Team Kio actually had an inauspicious start as it trailed 22-29 after the first quarter. The semifinals jitters, however, went away come the second quarter as Robert Reyes, Lucio Sanchez, and Dustin Sablan each scored 8 points to give Team Kio a 55-48 lead at the half.



Team Kio's Paka Sablan, left, and Team CNMI's Estevan Borja contest the jump ball in midcourt at the start of their semifinal game in the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League Monday night at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

They would only get better come the start of the third quarter, as their defense limited Team CNMI to 16 points while scoring 20 points themselves to open up a 75-64

spread heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Reyes then exploded for 11 points in the final canto as Team Kio left Team CNMI

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